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Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, MARCH 18-20, 2016

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Becca Taylor, left,
and Praba Pilar.
DAVID LIPNOWSKI/FOR METRO



MAPPING IDENTITY

**New exhibit helps indigenous
youth in Winnipeg reflect**
metroNEWS

BUDGET LEAK

Big win for cities

Billions pledged for social, green infrastructure projects, transit

Ottawa appears ready to boost its share of the funding it provides municipalities as it looks to fast-track an infrastructure spending spree, Torstar News Service has learned.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau will take the wraps off the Liberals' first budget on Tuesday.

And sources say municipal officials can expect good news on two fronts: a change to the traditional one-third funding formula — at least for some projects — and financial help for the prep work needed to get those infrastructure projects off the ground.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Thursday previewed the upcoming fiscal blueprint, saying his government has chosen "investment" over "austerity."

Trudeau also confirmed that

the Liberals will use the upcoming budget to roll back the age of eligibility for Old Age Security payments to 65 from 67 as promised, reversing a change introduced by the previous Conservative government.

The Liberals pledged a big hike in infrastructure funding during last year's election campaign — an extra \$60 billion over the coming decade. The budget will detail the government's plan to roll out the cash in two phases.

The initial phase, to be stretched over two years, will allow infrastructure cash to be spent on existing projects. Billed as "recapitalization," it will enable municipalities to tackle a backlog of unfunded work.

Trudeau confirmed Thursday that the government's initial focus will be on funding repairs to existing infrastructure.

"The first two years, we're going to do the unsexy things that governments hate to announce, recapitalization of infrastructure, maintenance, upgrades, the things that you don't get

to cut a ribbon and announce a shiny new building on," the prime minister said in an interview with Bloomberg.

Typically, the cost of infrastructure has been split equally between municipalities, provinces and the federal govern-

ment. But municipal leaders have appealed to the federal government to consider paying a greater share — up to 50 per cent — with the provinces paying around 33 per cent and municipalities on the hook for 20 per cent. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

What does it mean for Winnipeg?

**Braeden
Jones**
Metro | Winnipeg

Winnipeg's mayor wants the message to come from the horse's mouth before celebrating, but said rumours of increased federal infrastructure support for municipalities are still "good to hear."

Reports that the federal government will assist with the cost of engineering studies and

environmental assessments to lay the groundwork for infrastructure projects were of particular interest to Bowman.

"Most of the cost for infrastructure, even when the cost for major infrastructure is split (evenly) by the three respective levels of government, much of the design work and the ongoing maintenance for infrastructure is borne by the Municipalities," Bowman said. "So it is not 'one third, one third, one third,' it's disproportionately the municipalities that shoulder the biggest financial burden."

Bowman said he's "interested to see if the announcement will help address that."

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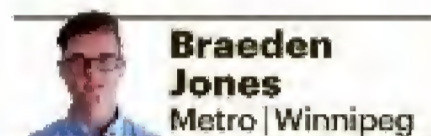
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Feds pledge \$500K in refugee aid

RESETTLEMENT

Funds to help with housing and household necessities



Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

A "truly national project" has united the public and private sector to help Syrian refugees settle in Canada — and manifested in the form of a \$500,000 grant for the Winnipeg Foundation to distribute locally.

Canadian Immigration Minister John McCallum said Thursday the money added to a new "welcome to Winnipeg fund" is meant to assist "with the housing and otherwise settling of refugees."

More than 25,000 Syrian refugees have arrived in Canada, and more than 800 are settling in Winnipeg.

"Having welcomed them here, the second and much more important step is to equip them for success in Canada," McCallum said.

He and the Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) have been soliciting private sector donors for donations to raise a target of \$50 million for the cause, so far yielding \$30 million, which is being distributed by CFC to its members.

Ian Bird, the CFC president, said he knows the grant left in the hands of the Winnipeg



Yaser Albakar and his family arrived in Winnipeg last December. They'd been living in a Lebanese refugee camp for two years after having escaped Syria.

BRAEDEN JONES/FOR METRO

foundation "will be put to exceptional good use."

The Winnipeg Foundation announced its first grant Thursday at Welcome Place, offering the temporary housing and support facility \$150,000.

Rita Chahal, director of Welcome Place, said each refugee family they host on a temporary basis will receive a kit of household staples on arrival, which is theirs to keep as they transition into permanent homes.

Items like bedding, pots, pans and cutlery — though "very basic," as Chahal said — offer "a sense of belonging when they've had to leave everything behind to start a new life in a new country."

The Winnipeg Foundation is also granting \$75,000 to

the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba "to provide wrap around supports for refugee families."

Winnipeg Foundation CEO Rick Frost said the remaining \$275,000 will be allocated in the coming weeks.

"There are many organizations in the city doing incredible work to support newcomers in our community," Frost said.

Additionally, Frost said "any gift to the welcome to Winnipeg fund will flow directly into the work (organizations do to settle refugees) immediately."

Additionally, Frost said "any gift to the welcome to Winnipeg fund will flow directly into the work (organizations do to settle refugees) immediately."



Hala Alhariri, one of 20 Syrian refugee children who started at Victoria Albert School this year in Winnipeg, learns from EAL Rosa Messina.

BRAEDEN JONES/FOR METRO

COUPLE CRASHES FEDERAL FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

A refugee couple interrupted a second major event in as many days Thursday, crashing a federal funding announcement for newcomers at Welcome Place.

Wednesday evening, the same two people — who have identified themselves as Somali refugees Farhia Gelle and Guled Farah — interrupted the NDP campaign kickoff by alleging Child and Family Services has taken away their children.

On Thursday, they demanded help from the minister of immigration, who happened to be in Winnipeg and in the room for the funding announcement.

"I am the Minister!" Minister John McCallum tried to interject, eventually getting the pair's attention and meeting with them privately.

He said they were "understandably upset."



Canadian Immigration Minister John McCallum is interrupted by protestors who identify themselves as Somali refugees Farhia Gelle and Guled Farah. BRAEDEN JONES/FOR METRO

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Curator Becca Taylor, left, and Colombian Mestiza interdisciplinary artist Praba Pilar (right) stand in Urban Shaman Contemporary Aboriginal Art Gallery, displaying *The Mapping Identity*, a show in which indigenous youth explore who they are. DAVID LIPNOWSKI/ FOR METRO

Artist helps youth map identity

CULTURE

Aboriginal roots explored in workshop

Meg Crane
For Metro | Winnipeg

Interdisciplinary artist Praba Pilar is helping indigenous youth in Winnipeg explore their identity.

The Winnipeg-based artist is Colombian Mestiza — of European and Amerindian ancestry. She led the youth from the Ndin-

awe Youth Resource Centre on Selkirk Avenue through a workshop using art to reflect on not only who, but where they are.

Becca Taylor of Urban Shaman Contemporary Aboriginal Art Gallery asked Pilar to participate in the project. Taylor used to work at the youth centre, and knew many of the youth moved to the city from elsewhere.

"I was interested in exploring this idea of community with them and mapping out their identities through it," Taylor said Thursday.

Pilar said she only provided tools for the participating youth,

but allowed them to tell their own stories, using their own language, shapes, colours and designs.

"I developed a curriculum based on the decolonizing initiatives I've seen in the Americas," said Pilar, who has run similar workshops in other places.

She has modified the program to focus specifically on indigenous youth in the urban prairies.

However, she was flexible throughout the program, responding to the youth and even extending the project from six weeks to eight.

"A big part is that in art, at

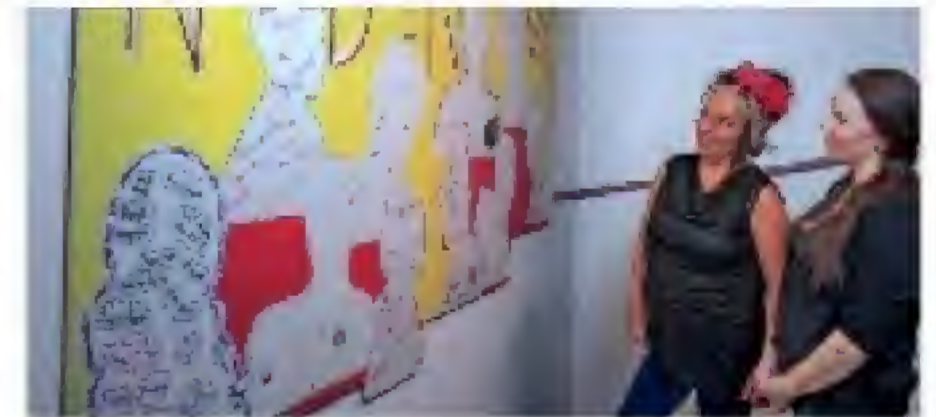
that realm, there are never mistakes. It's all expression," she said. "And so, it's a very wonderful arena to explore, for youth, and to play in."

Pilar said she doesn't know what the long-term impact will be, but she did see an immediate change in the youth.

"Short term, there was a lot of confidence building. There was a lot of accomplishment," said Pilar.

She saw the youth work to find ways to express difficult parts of their lives, and she said they found pride in that.

"Their creativity and every-



The event runs until April 16. DAVID LIPNOWSKI/ FOR METRO

thing just really shone through," said Taylor.

The art from this project, collectively titled *The Mapping Identity*

Project, is on exhibit at Urban Shaman Aboriginal Arts Gallery from March 18 to April 16.



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Hussain Guisti has invited 300 Syrian refugees to his free kids' party at the Greendell Park Community Centre over Easter weekend. CONTRIBUTED

Party prince to welcome 300 refugees

SYRIAN CRISIS

Hussain Guisti plans to show off Canadian hospitality

Shel Zolkewich
For Metro | Winnipeg

The master of fun and games is at it again, and this time, he's invited some very special guests.

Hussain Guisti is expecting at least 300 Syrian refugees at his upcoming kids' party.

"All Canadians and all Manitobans are trying to reach out and help," Guisti said. "This shows them what Canadian hospitality is all about."

The local entrepreneur runs a free community party every month from October through

May to help keep kids active.

He has been organizing these parties since 2007. His first attracted around 90 kids, while his most recent entertained more than 1,400 people.

For the next one, planned for Easter weekend, he will rent the community centre and pay the expenses out of his own pocket, including buses to send attendees to the event.

Five inflatable bouncers and slides will keep kids entertained. New to his setup is the Cash Cube. Kids (and adults too) will spend 30 seconds inside an inflatable cube trying to catch as much fake money as they can. The Bank of Montreal will then open an account with real money that matches their winnings.

The party runs from March 25 (Good Friday) to March 27 (Easter Sunday) at Greendell Park Community Centre, 75 Woodlawn Ave. from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

URBAN PLANNING

Book lays out vision of Winnipeg rebuilt

A collective of local architects, artists and planners have come together and published a book of 12 ways Winnipeg could be redesigned.

Called Re/Imagining Winnipeg, the book takes a playful look at the city's network, including specific locations, asking: What if these were different?

"Some of it's a little bit out there," Lawrence Bird, an architect and urban planner who co-edited the book, said Thursday.

For example, its pages feature

one design that examines what a tower may look like on the historic corner of Portage and Main, while another mock-up explores how to transform a railway bridge into residential space.

Bird said the designs address issues faced by the city, including active transportation and balancing urban and green space.

"These key issues matter in everyday life," Bird said.

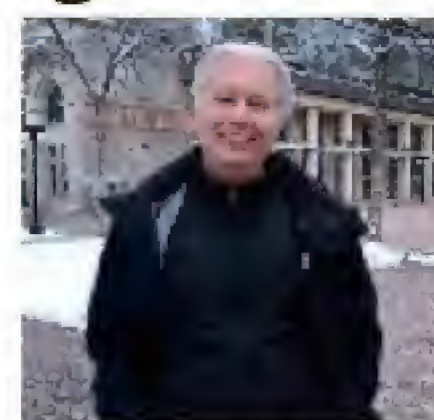
For him, the book illustrates why design is inextricably linked to city planning. That being said,

you do not require a degree in architecture to appreciate it. Its pages contain essays as well as photography and illustrations to help readers grasp the concepts.

"We actually designed it because we wanted it to be something that anyone could enjoy. It's not obscure," Bird said.

"Our main take-away from this is that design can offer something to the city."

A book launch is taking place at McNally Robinson on March 18 at 7 p.m. MEG CRANE/FOR METRO



Architect, planner and editor Lawrence Bird
MEG CRANE/FOR METRO

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IN BRIEF

Man charged with arson

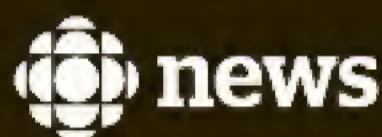
Winnipeg police have charged Lawrence Patrick Akerley, 45, with arson with disregard for human life, arson causing damage to property and possession of incendiary material. The charges stem from a fire Wednesday in a multi-unit residence in the 600 block of McGee Street. METRO

Arrest made in death of girl originally thought mauled

RCMP have made an arrest in the death of an 11-year-old northern Manitoba girl originally thought to have been killed by a bear. The Mounties say a man has been taken into custody on the Garden Hill reserve where Teresa Robinson lived. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Susan Ormiston for The National



Investigates



David Common for CBC News

Roads are slippery

WEATHER

Daytime thaw, nighttime freeze mean driving danger

Meg Crane
For Metro | Winnipeg

Bad news, Winnipeggers. The recent dump of snow our city received could be here to stay, which could make for dangerous commutes, according to Environment Canada. "We're in this potential freeze-thaw cycle," meteorologist Natalie Hasell said Thursday.

Over the next few weeks, she said daytime temperatures are not expected to get high enough to melt all the white stuff away, and nighttime temperatures are expected to drop below zero.

"The air temperature is not likely to rise much above two (Celsius)," Hasell said.

This will cause some of the snow to melt and then freeze as ice on roads and sidewalks. "Driving conditions and



The Canadian Museum for Human Rights pictured in the distance after Wednesday saw a dump of snow dropped on a spring-like Winnipeg. BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

walking conditions could be difficult and could change relatively quickly," Hasell said.

"Weather still plays a role in how your day is going to go."

She said people should pay attention to the conditions, and take extra precautions to avoid accidents.

Before heading out on the highway, Hasell recommends packing an emergency kit and having some way of communicating with people while on the road.

She said it's also a good

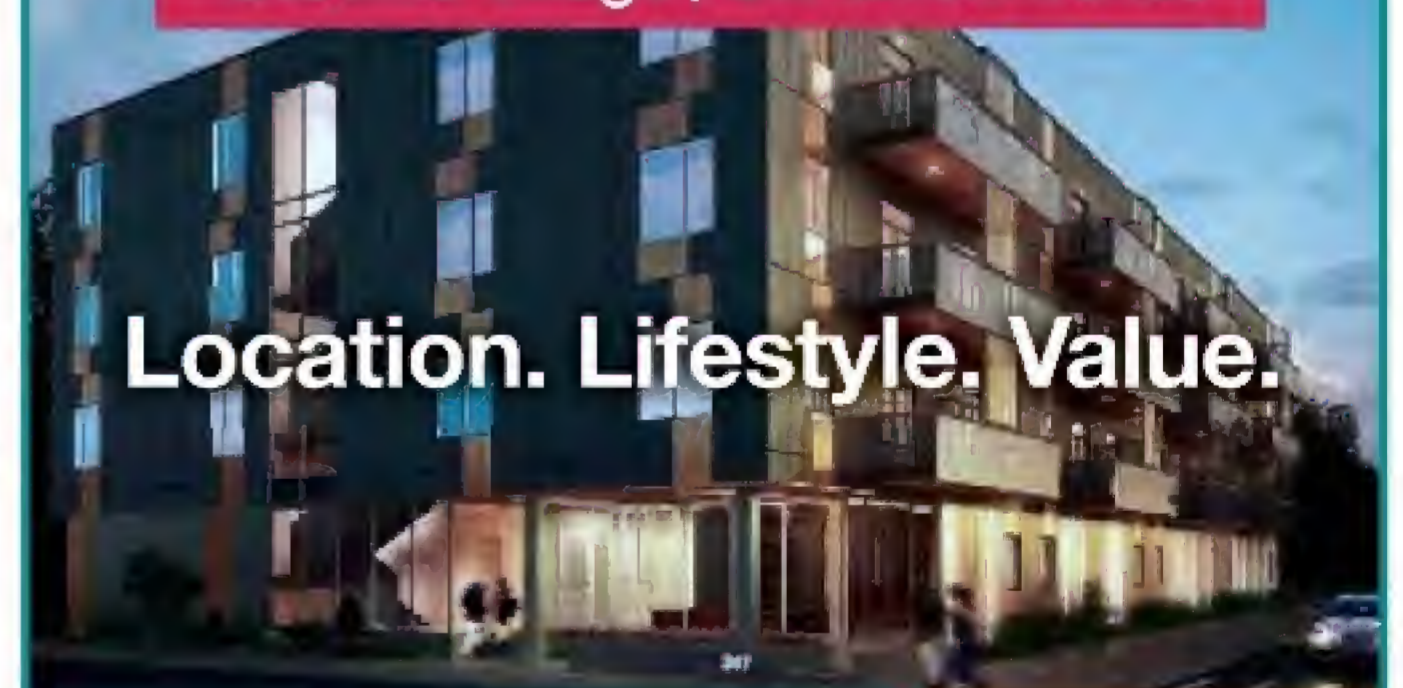
idea to tell someone which route you're taking, and let them know when you leave and when you expect to arrive.

"The river is breaking up, so just because it's cold again does not mean that it's safe to go on the water," Hasell said.

And we might not be done with the snow yet. Hasell said more is in the forecast toward the end of March, but that's too far away to say for sure what's coming.

"We'll have to wait and see," she said.

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BRIAN PALLISTER, PC

Manitoba's Progressive Conservative party will reinstate a referendum on major tax increases if it forms government after the April 19 election.

Leader Brian Pallister says cabinet ministers would have their salary cut by 20 per cent if they broke that promise.

The NDP government changed its balanced budget legislation and overrode the need for a referendum when it raised the provincial sales tax. The Conservative party took the government to court over the move, but lost. Pallister says people deserve to have a say if the government increases income, business or retail taxes. He says the referendum promise would not include minor tax increases on things such as tobacco. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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METRO FILE



RANA BOKHARI, Liberal

Manitoba Liberals are promising free ambulance rides for low-income seniors if they win the April 19 provincial election.

Liberal Leader Rana Bokhari says her party would reimburse ambulance fees for anyone over 65 and with an annual income of less than \$20,000.

Bokhari says that she would try to find a way, eventually, to avoid charging the fee up front.

Bokhari says it's unfair that ambulance fees can exceed \$500 in some parts of the province.

The Progressive Conservatives have promised to find ways to reduce ambulance fees for everyone.

Bokhari says her plan would help those most in need, and would cost less than \$1.5 million a year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

2016 PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS
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GREG SELINGER, NDP

The Manitoba New Democrats are promising to double the number of community clinics if the party is re-elected April 19.

Leader Greg Selinger says the NDP would build eight new QuickCare clinics and extend operating hours across the province. He says that would mean families could get the health care they need day or night. The eight clinics already standing are staffed by nurse practitioners and registered nurses.

Selinger says Conservative Leader Brian Pallister would cut front-line services in health care in his party's quest to find hundreds of millions in so-called efficiencies. He also says corporate giveaways promised by the Liberals would mean less money for health care. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MANITOBA
ELECTION 2016

Selinger says PC cutbacks will lead to job loss

Government spending, tax cuts and education dominated the first day of the Manitoba election campaign.

Party leaders wasted no time staking out their ground, wooing voters before the April 19 vote.

NDP Leader Greg Selinger says voters have a clear choice and warns the Conservatives, led by Brian Pallister, would cut important government services and jobs.

Pallister is repeating his party's promise to roll back the provincial sales tax increase and find \$300 million by cutting government waste.

He says his government would commission an audit and all options would be on the table.

Liberal Leader Rana Bokhari kicked off her party's campaign by promising to bring in all-day kindergarten.

She says the promise would cost \$50 million but couldn't say exactly where the money would come from. METRO

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5 THINGS TO DO IN WINNIPEG THIS WEEKEND

Indieconstruction:

The West End Cultural Centre and Clusterfestival present an evening of electronic music on Friday. One of Winnipeg's youngest electronic musicians, Kerey Harper, will be performing. Tickets are \$15 and doors open at 7:15 p.m.



There are plenty of ways to keep the dream of spring alive and ignore the layer of white stuff that blankets our city. Check out these five events happening indoors this weekend.

MEG CRANE/FOR METRO

2 Discover Ag in the City:

The Forks is hosting an event Friday and Saturday in centre court that will explore agriculture in Manitoba, including discussing what Winnipeggers get from local farmers. Events include panel discussions and 18 exhibitors.

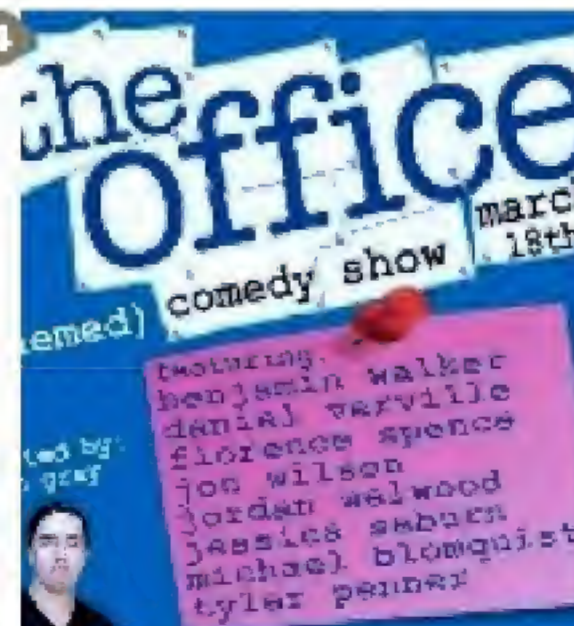


5 Free Korean Movie Night:

Korean movie How to Steal a Dog is playing in the community classroom at McNally Robinson at 3 p.m. The movie is about 10-year-old Ji-so, who tries to find a lost dog so she can get the reward money to help out her family, who is living in a van.

The Office (themed) comedy show:

Wee Johnny's Irish Pub is hosting The Office (themed) comedy show on Friday at 8 p.m. The \$5 at the door gets you eight local comedians and a musical chairs tournament. Jenga will be available for the audience to play after the comedy is over.



Over the Top Art Auction & Cupcake Party:

MAWA's latest fundraiser includes all-you-can-eat cupcakes. The auction consists of original pieces of art by local artists, including Diana Thorneycroft and Steve Gouthro. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. It starts at 2 p.m. at MAWA, 611 Main Street.



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RETIREMENT AGE

Canada sticking to 65

Canada will keep its retirement age at 65, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says.

The Stephen Harper Conservative government had planned to raise the retirement age to 67, but Trudeau said that this won't be happening in next week's budget.

"Tweaking the age like that is a very simplistic solution — that won't work — to a complex problem," Trudeau said on Thursday morning in a question and answer interview with Bloomberg News in New York.

Trudeau said he prefers a "nuanced and responsible discussion" about retirement, arguing that investment bankers and lawyers don't put their bodies through the same physical strains as manual labourers. He defended his plans to invest in the middle class and said he's not worried about driving the wealthy out of the country.

"We have nothing against success in Canada," Trudeau said.

He acknowledged that Canada is on the other side of the fiscal debate than Germany and the United Kingdom, and said that Canada is in a strong position to take advantage of low interest rates through investment.

He said that Canada needs to diversify its economy and called climate change an opportunity for economic growth. He pledged that Canada will be "ruthless" to make sure carbon emissions are cut. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Tweaking the age like that is a very simplistic solution — that won't work — to a complex problem.

Prime Minister Trudeau

Trudeau tricky on Trump

NEW YORK

PM deftly skates around offering a real opinion of The Donald

Americans got to witness a Canadian visitor this week immersed in an activity his nation prides itself on having mastered: stickhandling. The person performing the pivots was Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

The subject he repeatedly skated around: Donald Trump.

The prime minister was asked repeatedly during his visit to New York this week and in Washington last week what he thinks of the Trump phenomenon. He has answered each time without specifically mentioning the billionaire's name.

"I have tremendous confidence in Americans' capacity to get the right result through their electoral system," he said Thursday, echoing previous responses.

"I think we're going to see what Americans are made of in this upcoming election."

He curtly told a news conference at the United Nations on Wednesday that he had faith in the better angels of Americans' nature, paraphrasing Abraham Lincoln.

Later, he alluded to the U.S. election before a high-powered crowd. After receiving an award from a women's group at the Waldorf Astoria hotel, he said the reason he was able to introduce progressive policies like a gender-parity cabinet and welcome refugees was because his approach had won with voters.

"As much as I was able to do, and my government was able to do, we only did it because Canadians made a choice: to choose a more open, fair, positive way of doing politics," he told the ballroom crowd, which



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau takes part in an interview at Bloomberg headquarters in New York. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

included the heads of McDonald's, Campbell Soup, Shell, and the Carnival Corp.

He added, dryly: "That is certainly something that I hope resonates through political systems around the world."

That last line prompted laughter and perhaps his loudest applause of the evening — louder even than his references to the gender-parity cabinet, which is why he was invited to the gala and given the award from the women's group Catalyst.

Amid the claps, he added: "I'm not thinking of any place in particular!"

Several former Canadian ambassadors to the U.S. have publicly warned the prime minister not to talk about the U.S. election, saying it would be a mistake to turn Canada into

an issue in a messy election.

Trudeau's appearances before heading home later Thursday included an interview at Bloomberg, owned by Trump critic and former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg. Bloomberg wrote a laudatory piece about Trudeau this week headlined, Canada's New Hope.

There, he was asked again about what he would do if Trump becomes president. Trudeau replied that he understood why people were angry in many countries about the current political and economic systems and explained that he's working on democratic reforms and economic policies aimed at empowering frustrated voters.

With respect to a president Trump, he said he'd work on areas where they shared common ground. The interviewer



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump addresses a press conference on March 15. AP/GETTY IMAGES

pressed him — what possible common ground could the Canadian progressive find with an American Republican talking about walls and ripping up trade deals and banning Mus-

lim visitors to the U.S.?

Trudeau replied: "A desire to see Americans do well. A desire to see citizens in our countries to have better jobs and greater opportunities." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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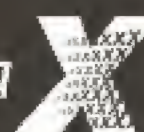
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REFUGEE CRISIS

EU close to migrant deal with Turkey

European leaders struggled Thursday to reach a deal that balanced their concerns about legal protections for refugees and Turkey's human rights record with their desperate need to resolve the migrant crisis.

On the table was a tentative plan to send back to Turkey tens of thousands of would-be asylum seekers who set out by boat for the Greek islands, in exchange for concessions that would reward Ankara with billions of dollars in aid, unprecedented visa access to Europe and promises of faster European Union membership talks.

Human rights groups and leading EU legislators decried the plan as a cynical cave-in, sacrificing universal rights to pander to a restless electorate fed up with hosting people who are fleeing war and poverty.

Even some leaders acknowledged the EU was walking a tightrope.

"It is on the edge of international law," Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė said of the outline deal that the 28-nation bloc hopes to sign off on before putting it up for approval to Turkey on Friday.

Some also criticized Tur-

**“
(The outline deal)
is on the edge of
international law.”**

Lithuanian President
Dalia Grybauskaitė

key, which hosts 2.7 million refugees, complaining it was cynically trying to exploit the situation to win concessions well beyond its reach under normal circumstances.

"Turkey is really asking for a lot. I refuse to accept negotiations that sometimes resemble a form of blackmail," said Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel.

Desperate to plug a yawning border hole that has seen more than 1 million people arrive in Europe in search of sanctuary or jobs, EU leaders have been increasingly looking to outsource management of the influx to Turkey.

They see the deal with Turkey as a way to halt the flow by land and sea, especially as the weather turns warmer, and prevent people from turning to unscrupulous smugglers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Yazidis, their family displaced by ISIS attacks, stand in their temporary home in Zakho, northern Iraq. The Obama administration formally said that ISIL is committing genocide against Yazidis, Christians and other minorities. GETTY IMAGES

U.S. denounces ISIL crimes as genocide

MIDDLE EAST

Declaration made official by congressional deadline

The Obama administration on Thursday formally concluded the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) is committing genocide against Christians and other minorities in Iraq and Syria, a declaration long sought by Congress and human rights organizations but likely to change little in the conflict against the extremists.

The determination, for which Congress had set a Thursday deadline, does not obligate the United States to take additional action against ISIL militants and does not prejudice any potential prosecution against its members.

Officials said the U.S. has already intensified its fight against ISIL and had effectively recognized the situation as a genocide more than a year ago when it agreed to increase the number of refugees, notably from Syria, that America accepts.

A day after the State Department said the administration would miss the deadline because it needed more evidence, Kerry said Thursday that he had com-

pleted his review after all and determined that Christians, Yazidis and Shiite groups are victims of genocide and crimes against humanity by the Islamic State.

The House earlier this week unanimously passed a nonbinding resolution condemning ISIL atrocities as genocide.

Kerry outlined a litany of atrocities that he said the militants had committed against people and religious sites, as well as threats to eradicate what it terms apostates and infidels.

Using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group, he said, "Daesh (ISIL) is genocidal by self-proclamation, by ideology, and by actions - in what it



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry speaks. J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

says, what it believes and what it does."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

First Puerto Rican woman with Zika has healthy baby

Officials in Puerto Rico say the first pregnant woman on the island infected with Zika has given birth to a healthy baby. Health Department spokeswoman Jillian Oliveras said Thursday that both are in good health. The mosquito-borne virus has been linked to microcephaly, which causes babies to be born with unusually small heads. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

France recreates terror attacks to prevent more

French lawmakers leading an investigation into the deadly Nov. 13 attacks in Paris and some first responders at the Bataclan concert hall that night staged a re-enactment Thursday of the horror that left 130 people dead across the capital.

The exercises aim to prevent future violence and shed light on what happened on Nov. 13. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Cuba, U.S. and Canada in between

The coming week is historic for Cubans and Americans, starting with U.S. President Barack Obama's two-day visit to Havana on Monday and Tuesday — the first by a U.S. president since 1928. It ends with a free, open-air concert by the Rolling Stones on Friday.



Cuban President Fidel Castro and Pierre and Margaret Trudeau look over a photo album during the Trudeau's 1976 state visit to Cuba. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Spotlight on CUBA

Stephen Kimber



In the spring of 2013, U.S. and Cuban negotiators needed a neutral location for secret talks that would lead — 18 months later — to the stunning Dec. 17, 2014, announcement the world's two "closest of enemies" were re-establishing relations. The only thing they could agree on initially, however, was that those talks should take place in friendly-with-both Canada.

Now, ahead of U.S. President Barack Obama's historic visit to Cuba, it's worth asking what the fast-evolving relationship between Washington and Havana — which we helped, in our modest way, to facilitate — will mean for the future of our own historic ties with Cuba.

After Fidel Castro's revolution triumphed in 1959, Canada was one of the few Western nations to maintain diplomatic relations with Cuba. In 1976, then-Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau became the first NATO leader to visit.

For Canada, that visit became a symbolic moment in our quest for an elusive, independent "third-way" foreign policy, untethered to the United States or Great Britain. For Cuba, it was an important symbolic moment too — international recognition of its legitimate place in the world. "Viva Cuba!" Trudeau declared.

The visit had another far-reaching consequence too. Trudeau and Castro became such warm personal friends that, in 2000, the Cuban leader — by then ailing himself — flew to Montreal to serve as an honorary pallbearer at Trudeau's state funeral.

Although relations cooled during the Harper era — the Conservative government opposed Cuba's mere presence at events like the Summit of the Americas — the Cubans did not easily forget Canada had been its friend when others were not. In 2010, during Canada's unsuccessful bid for a seat on the UN Security Council, Cuban diplomats even openly lobbied on our behalf with their Latin American counterparts.

Thanks to the 55-year-old American embargo, which has effectively prevented Amer-

icans from trading with — or travelling to — Cuba, and to the 1990s collapse of Cuba's Soviet Bloc benefactors, Canada has had unparalleled access to the Caribbean island nation.

Calgary's Sherritt International — which boasts mining, oil-and-gas and electricity interests there — is now Cuba's largest foreign investor. And the million sun-seeking Canadians who fly south every winter to enjoy the island's spectacular beaches currently represent Cuba's largest source of foreign tourists. Cuba even hosts the largest Terry Fox run for cancer research in the world outside Canada.

With American businesses and individuals eager — and increasingly able — to share Cuba's long-forbidden fruit, Canada's role in Cuba will inevitably diminish. But it's worth reminding ourselves of that sweet 2010 moment at the United Nations when Cuba unexpectedly stood up for us. "You can trust Canada," said Cuba's Ambassador Pedro Nunez Mosquera.

Cubans do have long memories, and they won't forget who their friends have been.

Stephen Kimber is the author of nine books, including *What Lies Across the Water: The Real Story of the Cuban Five*, and a columnist at Metro Halifax.

You can trust Canada.
Cuban Ambassador
Pedro Nunez Mosquera, in 2010

TRADE

Penalty on U.S. dollars nixed

Cuba's government said Thursday it plans to do away with a penalty on converting U.S. dollars, but warned the Obama administration not to expect more changes until the U.S. trade embargo is lifted.

Three days before President Barack Obama visits the island, Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez dismissed Obama's lofty rhetoric about using his visit to speak directly to the Cuban people about their future. In a stern and lengthy speech in Havana, he put Obama on notice that any attempt to circumvent the Cuban government by lobbying Cubans directly would not be warmly received.

"Various U.S. officials have declared in recent hours that the objective of Obama's measures is empowering the Cuban people. The Cuban people empowered themselves decades ago," Rodriguez said, referring to the 1959 revolution that put the current Cuban government in power.

Of Obama's talk about engaging directly with Cubans, he added, "It's a nonsense approach."

Still, Rodriguez laid out a scenario under which the 10



Cuban children play baseball in Havana as Cubans look forward to a game between Major League Baseball's Tampa Bay Rays and the Cuban team on March 22. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

per cent penalty on dollars exchanged at banks and money-changers in Cuba would soon be lifted, making it easier and cheaper for Americans to spend time in Cuba.

Earlier this week the U.S. lifted a ban on Cuban access to the international banking

system, a long-standing Cuban demand. Rodriguez told reporters in the Cuban capital that Cuba will attempt a series of international transactions in coming days. If they work, Cuba will eliminate the 10 per cent penalty.

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Pet clothing sales feel chill of milder winter

RETAIL

Companies forced to lay off employees and cut prices

An unseasonably warm winter in Eastern Canada and a weak economy have taken a big bite out of sales from businesses that cater to furry best friends, the pet products industry says.

"For us, it's a big hurt," said Marianne Bertrand, owner of Muttluks. The Toronto-based company estimates that sales of doggie coats and boots have slipped by more than 30 per cent this winter.

Muttluks, whose boots were recently given to U.S. President Barack Obama's dogs by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau during his state visit, was forced to lay off about a dozen employees when it prematurely shut production late last year.

Montreal pet store Doghaus said the warm winter prompted it to slash its prices in half and it plans to offer even deeper discounts to help clear inventory.

"It wasn't a wasteland or anything, but it definitely was lighter than other years," said manager Sarah Miller-Barrington.

Industry surveys have suggested that most pet owners are willing to spend extra for the best products available, including food, even if they are more expensive.

Like many of her customers, Miller-Barrington says she tends to "mother" her eight-year-old Shetland Sheepdog named Fergus, even though his heavy fur coat protects him from the elements.



Sarah and her dog Fergus in the Doghaus pet supply store in Montreal. An unseasonably warm winter in Eastern Canada and a weak economy have taken a big bite out of sales from businesses that cater to furry best friends, the pet products industry says. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Just as parents outfit their children for the cold, many people feel the same obligation to their pets, she added. Others simply view it as an opportunity to make a fashion statement by finding a fun new dog coat each year.

K9 Excel owner Johanne Beaulieu said she hasn't seen this level of sales decline in the six years she's operated the Montreal store and website, which sells clothes, boots, and dog diapers.

\$7 billion

What the pet business is worth annually, including food, clothing, accessories and trips to the vet, according to the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada.

Buyers aren't just the wealthy — they come from all walks of life, Beaulieu said.

"It's people for whom an animal is their baby," she said.

A weaker economy, especially in Western Canada, has also contributed to diminished sales of pet products, says Louis McCann, CEO of the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada.

Clothing and boots are highly dependent on weather but the health of the economy plays a more important role in purchasing decisions, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SHARING ECONOMY

B.C. hot spot cracks down on Airbnb



Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

One of B.C.'s hottest tourism destinations plans to crack down on unlicensed nightly home rentals on websites such as Airbnb in a bid to improve affordability and housing availability for long-term residents.

District of Tofino councillors voted this week to enforce regulations and educate people immediately about and surrounding bed and breakfasts and short-term rentals, which have flourished since Airbnb entered the scene two to three years ago.

During the same time, rents went up and long-term rentals became harder to find, according to the motion by Tofino Mayor Josie Osborne.

Home rentals have been allowed in Tofino for a decade if the owner gets a business licence — these cost up to \$375 — but this rule is often ignored and is only enforced on a complaint basis, Osborne said.

Council is concerned Airbnb listings take apartments off the market for seasonal tourism workers in the hot spot that was featured in the New York Times twice last year.

In focus groups conducted by the district, they found that short-term rentals are "critical" for property owners to be able to afford to buy in Tofino in the first place. Tofino's population was 1,876 in the 2011 census.

But anecdotal evidence has made council suspicious that the conversion of long-term rentals to short-term rentals is leading to evictions and

higher rents, Osborne said.

Tofino staff will immediately act to educate owners about and enforce rules for short-term rentals, and will also come up with a long-term plan to deal with the issue.

Vancouver is expecting staff to report back this fall on how to handle Airbnb, Coun. Geoff Meggs said.

"The priority concern is it could be soaking up rental housing," he said, adding public safety is also a concern.

The priority concern is it could be soaking up rental housing.

Coun. Geoff Meggs

IMPORTS

Liberals under pressure to raise duty-exempt limit

With its maiden budget just days away, the new Liberal government is facing pressure to bump up Canada's duty-exemption limit from its current level of \$20 for products shipped or mailed from abroad.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Enzyme #1
PETase, which
breaks down
PET



BRILLIANT IDEONELLA
Scientists from Kelo University in Tokyo slogged through the sludge at a PET recycling yard and found a strain of bacteria previously unknown to science: *Ideonella sakaiensis* 201-F6. It evolved to use plastic as a source of food. It can break down a thin, 60 mg film of PET in six weeks at 30 C, turning it into two chemicals that are relatively environmentally benign. The process is still too slow to apply on an industrial scale, but this is a start.

2 PETase breaks down PET into a smaller molecule called MHET

1 Bacteria makes enzymes (proteins that break things down).

Enzyme #2
MHETase, which breaks down MHET

4 Bacteria further breaks down EG and TPA into food for its carbon and energy needs. Yum!

3 MHETase breaks down MHET into two environmentally friendlier chemicals, TPA and EG.

TPA
(terephthalic acid)

EG
(ethylene glycol)



GRAPHICS BY ANDRÉS PLANA/METRO

FINDINGS

Your week in science

Dengue vaccine

Doctors at Johns Hopkins University have announced a 100-per-cent successful clinical trial of a vaccine for dengue, one of the most common — and most feared — mosquito-borne diseases on Earth. (It's not called "bone-break fever" for no reason).

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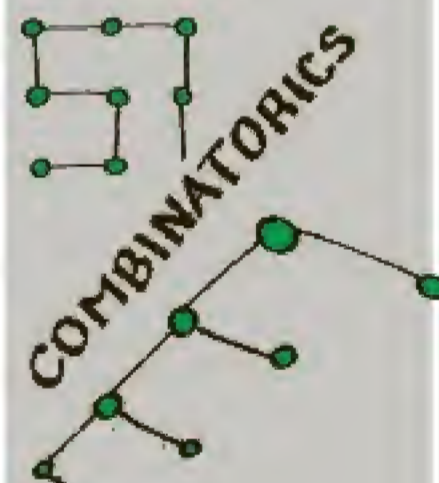
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CITIZEN SCIENTIST by Genna Buck

Do chimpanzees believe in God?

QUESTION

Whoa. Chimps build shrines? Does this mean humans aren't the only species with religion? — Colin, Toronto

You know, Colin, it wouldn't surprise me. Chimpanzees have been observed using tools, warring among rival groups and dancing in the rain. They're known to practise a sort of communal chilling-out after meals that's been compared to gathering for worship. However, I don't think

there's conclusive evidence of chimp spirituality in the recent Nature paper you're talking about. It describes chimps caught on camera repeatedly and deliberately hurling rocks at trees and leaving distinctive stone piles (shrines?) around the forest. It didn't seem to be a mating ritual. It wasn't about food. There was no obvious evolutionary reason for it at all. The authors suggested it could be symbolic, or even sacred.

But very careful further study is needed. I think, be-

cause researchers have to fight the tendency we all have to *anthropomorphize*, or ascribe human characteristics to non-humans. It's one of our powerful cognitive biases (in-born patterns of flawed reasoning).

That said, this study made me think of a conference I went to where psychiatrist Martin Brüne presented findings about a possible PTSD-like syndrome in chimpanzees.

Brüne showed a video of a retired research chimp curled into a ball, rocking back and

forth and hitting himself, much like I'd once seen a child with autism do, mid-tantrum. It looked eerily human.

The moderator said chimps continually exceeded his expectations: He always found they were more smart, more complex and more self-aware than he'd thought.

So I'd be open to the idea that our closest living relatives are into human-like things, such as prayer.

But we need to see more evidence first.



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Where are all the movie stars?

ANALYSIS

Marketing trumps man in today's big studio films

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada



Where have all the movie stars gone?

Once upon a time big names on even bigger marquees were as close to a guarantee of good box office as one gets in the movie biz. But no more.

This weekend *The Divergent Series: Allegiant*, the third part of the young adult series, hit theatres. Based on the successful books, it stars Shailene Woodley and Theo James in a teen epic about dystopia, guilt and artfully tossed pixie haircuts.

In the new film the pair risk it all to go beyond the walls of their shattered city to discover the truth about their troubled world.

Woodley and James are appealing performers and despite having chiselled cheekbones and earning accolades (they won the Teen Choice Award for best liplock in *Insurgent* and Woodley was a Golden Globe nominee for *The Descendants*), no one is going to see *Allegiant* because they're in it.

Why? Because they're not movie stars — they're brand ambassadors.

The movie's brand is big-

ger than they are and that's the draw.

Young adult movies like *Twilight* made Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart famous and superhero films reignited Robert Downey Jr.'s career and turned Chris Hemsworth into a sex symbol, but none of these actors have scored recent hits outside of their best-known brands.

These days the marketing is more important than the movie star.

It's almost a throwback to the very early days of cinema when actors weren't given billing or publicized for the films they made.

Fearing performers would demand larger paycheques if they became popular, the studios gave them nicknames instead.

Hamilton, Ont.-born Florence Lawrence was known as the Biograph Girl, named after the studio that produced her films, but with the release of *The Broken Oath* in 1910 became the first entertainer to have her name appear in the credits of a film.

Floodgates opened, soon names like Mary Pickford (another Biograph Girl), Douglas Fairbanks and Charlie Chaplin festooned not only movie credits but posters as well, usually above the title.

The studios seized the marketing value of their actors and for years the star system was a money-spinner.

These stars were so powerful they not only sold tickets by the fistful but also influenced contemporary trends.

For instance, it's rumoured



The Divergent Series is proof you don't need big names if you've got a big brand. CONTRIBUTED

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse	
The Divergent Series: Allegiant Part 1	★★
The Program	★★
Chi-Raq	★★★★
Knight of Cups	★

HOW RATING WORKS
★★★★ SEE IT
★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★ UP TO YOU
★ SKIP IT

that sales of men's undershirts plummeted in 1934 when *The King of Hollywood*, Clark Gable, was seen without one in *It Happened One Night*.

As the legend goes, sales took such a hit several under-

wear manufacturers tried, unsuccessfully, to sue Columbia Pictures for damages.

For decades stars ruled supreme at the box office, but the business has changed. I'm guessing the movie studios

love it because no film brand ever asked for more money or a bigger trailer.

Certainly Tom Cruise can still sell a ticket or three, but only if his movie has the words *Mission Impossible* in the title and Matt Damon was brought back in to add star sparkle to the new *Jason Bourne* movie after a lackluster reboot with Jeremy Renner. Jennifer Lawrence is a movie star. Her latest film *Joy*, the empowering story of a woman and her mop, wasn't a big hit but without her star power would likely

never have been made at all.

But former sure bets like Will Smith, Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie cannot always be counted on for big returns.

It's not just the movie business's attitude toward fame that has changed, it's also ours.

Today a proliferation of YouTube superstars and social media has democratized fame and in a world and business where everyone is famous, no one truly is, not even the stars of a blockbuster such as *The Divergent Series: Allegiant*.



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Actor defends Lance Armstrong

FALLEN SPORTS HERO

Ben Foster had to learn about doping culture for role in film

After enduring an intense exercise regime, secretly using performance-enhancing drugs, and immersing himself in the world of Lance Armstrong to portray the cyclist on the big screen, Ben Foster was left with one feeling for the controversial athlete.

"Empathy," said the actor. "It was a complicated time. He's a complicated man."

It's a feeling Foster hopes audiences can also come away with after watching *The Program*, which tracks Armstrong's incredible cycling career and the behind-the-scenes doping that drove it.

Armstrong, a cancer survivor and longtime athlete, was once an American sporting hero, but is now a divisive figure.

He has been banned from cycling for life and had his seven Tour de France titles stripped after telling Oprah Winfrey in a 2013 interview that he used performance-enhancing drugs.

Foster knew the bare-bones of Armstrong's story before making *The Program*, which was directed by British film-

maker Stephen Frears. But playing the athlete made him appreciate the broader culture of doping that existed in cycling at the time.

"He did doping better. He did nutrition better. He did the cycling gear better. He did training better. It's not about being a liar. If everybody's doping, everybody's lying," Foster said, noting that Armstrong also raised millions for cancer research over the course of his career.

"He treated people in a particular way that I don't necessarily agree with but the complexity of the good that he did, with the way that he did it, deserves a deeper consideration."

To properly capture Armstrong's intensity, Foster — unbeknownst to the rest of his cast, but under the supervision of a doctor — took performance-enhancing drugs himself and only revealed what he had done after filming had wrapped.

He also tried to reach out to Armstrong, but the athlete wasn't interested in talking.

Foster nonetheless describes himself as a fan of Armstrong's, saying he found himself defending the cyclist on the set of the film.

"We don't like that Lance didn't apologize in a way that felt sincere. And that's why we're punishing him still," he said. "I don't condone or condemn ... I think it's a complicated story."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ANOTHER TAKE

Lance fascinating person to watch, says O'Dowd

Chris O'Dowd, who plays David Walsh, an Irish journalist who worked to bring Armstrong's doping into the spotlight, agreed that the cyclist is a complex character and noted that the film attempts to provide a better picture of the intricacies of his world.

"He was an incredible athlete, very manipulative, vindictive, self-centred, very smart, and ego driven," he said. "I think he's a fascinating person to watch."

"I don't know if he needs our sympathy. I think he's a fallen hero, but still a kind of hero"

Chris O'Dowd

O'Dowd's personal feelings about Armstrong, however, tend to waver.

"At times I feel slightly sorry for him. But then I think of how he treated some people ... and I think, 'I don't know if he needs our sympathy,'" he said. "I think he's a fallen hero, but still a kind of hero."



Ben Foster stars as Lance Armstrong in *The Program* directed by Stephen Frears. CONTRIBUTED

"[Lance Armstrong] treated people in a particular way that I don't necessarily agree with but the complexity of the good that he did, with the way that he did it, deserves a deeper consideration."

Ben Foster on the controversial sports hero

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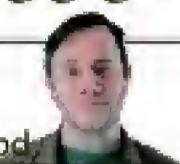
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On being a nerd and indie film roles

DIVERGENT

Zoe Kravitz talks musical theatre and her acting gigs

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood



Zoe Kravitz is gearing up for one more Divergent film after this latest instalment, *Allegiant*, hits theatres. But she might be able to squeeze in another hip indie — like last year's *Dope* — before heading back to finish off the YA dystopian series.

You are three movies into a four-movie series. How do you approach this section?
Yeah, it's interesting, it's kind of like going home again. I feel like I know this character so well now that, I know how she reacts to things. I know how I want her to evolve. But then you read the script and you go, "OK, this is a moment. How do I make that part of her

come through?" I feel like that's where the work comes in.

What were some of those moments for this one?
I actually really enjoyed how quiet she is in this film. I think there was a lot of angst in her in the first film, but there was an immaturity there. Now so much has gone on, there's been real loss, real death, real killing, real revolution, so I think it's kind of shut her up in a really interesting way, where she's focused.

Do you know what happens going forward?
Yeah, I read the books, but I try not to dwell on it because once we've gotten the script that has got to be your focus, because you can't dwell on the things that aren't in there, you know what I mean? You're kind of like "OK, this is now what we're working with."

This is such a gigantic cast. Is there a lot of downtime?
I guess there's chunks of time where you're not work-



Shailene Woodley (Tris, left) and Zoë Kravitz (Christina) star in *The Divergent Series: Allegiant*. CONTRIBUTED

ing. But the thing is that for the most part, everyone's around, you know what I mean? So even though you're not featured in that scene, you're probably somewhere in the room because it's kind of focused on this group of people. So there's actually a lot of times of being in the

scene but just kind of being there because you'd be there. There's a lot of standing around, but on camera.

You go between these massive franchises and very interesting smaller films. How do you navigate that?
It's about if the story reflects

something that I feel like I haven't seen or want to see more of or want to be a part of. It doesn't really come down to, "OK, I'm gonna do a really cool indie film, and I'm gonna do a big franchise film," you know? *Mad Max*, I loved the story. *Divergent*, I loved the story. *Dope*, I loved

the story.

You've described yourself as a nerd. Why?

I'm a very nerdy person. Acting for me came from musical theatre, which some people might not think is nerdy. But it was not the coolest group of kids at school, it just never is. In all of the schools that I ever went to, that was my crew. I was in every play that I could get near and always singing in three-part harmony with my friends. I have that very campy part of myself. I was not the coolest kid in school, so I consider myself a nerd.

But nerds have really come into their own.

Yeah, I think people are beginning to not only accept but be intrigued by the less obvious things in life. It's not that we're less nerdy, we just don't care as much. Or people are not so quick to judge, hopefully. Nerds are more interesting, right? The reason you're considered a "nerd" is because you're not doing what everyone else is doing.

INTERVIEW

Divergent author loves meeting fans

Divergent author Veronica Roth won't have to travel far to attend this year's BookCon.

Roth is a native of Chicago, the setting for the third annual fan-based, pop-culture publishing event, the book world's version of Comic-Con. BookCon will be held May 14 at McCormick Place, with featured speakers also including Samantha Bee, Sherman Alexie and Richelle Mead.

"I'm fierce in my love for Chicago, and it's a great place for books, so hopefully my author peers are seduced by its wonderfulness and decide to move here," she wrote in a recent email interview.

As in previous years, BookCon immediately follows BookExpo America, the publishing industry's annual convention and trade show. Thousands of young people attended BookCon in 2014 and 2015 when the event was held in New York, and Roth said she was excited to meet some of her fans.

"For me, it's important to connect with the people who are reading my books, particularly the younger ones," she wrote. "It reminds me why it's important to write stories for them, and about them. They are wonderfully complex, enthusiastic people, and what they share with me in person ... is an essential part of what makes writing meaningful to me." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Veronica Roth attends the premiere of *Allegiant* in New York on Monday. Roth will attend the third annual fan-based, pop-culture publishing event, BookCon, on May 14 in Chicago.

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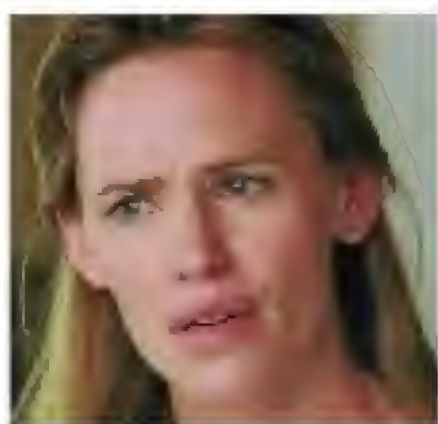
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**DRAMA**
Miracles From Heaven

Director: Patricia Riggen
Starring: Jennifer Garner, Kylie Rogers

When Christy discovers her 10-year-old daughter Anna has an incurable disease, she becomes a ferocious advocate for her daughter's healing as she searches for a solution. After Anna has a freak accident, an extraordinary miracle unfolds.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: **64%** **Audience:** **78%**

DRAMA/MYSTERY
10 Cloverfield Lane

Director: Dan Trachtenberg
Starring: Mary Elizabeth Winstead, John Goodman

A young woman wakes up after an accident to find that she's locked in a cellar with a doomsday prepper who insists that he saved her life and the world outside is uninhabitable following an apocalyptic catastrophe.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: **90%** **Audience:** **85%**

**ACTION**
The Divergent Series: Allegiant

Director: Robert Schwentke
Starring: Shailene Woodley, Theo James

After the earth-shattering revelations of *Insurgent*, Tris (Shailene Woodley) must escape with Four (Theo James) and go beyond the wall enclosing Chicago. For the first time ever, they will leave the only city and family they have ever known.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: **18%** **Audience:** **+95%**

DRAMA/COMEDY
The Bronze

Director: Bryan Buckley
Starring: Melissa Rauch, Gary Cole

A decade ago, Hope Ann Gregory (Melissa Rauch) was America's sweetheart. Her inspired performance on a ruptured Achilles at the world's most prestigious gymnastics tournament clinched an unlikely bronze medal for the U.S. team and brought glory to her hometown of Amherst, Ohio.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

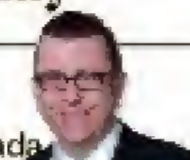
Critics: **22%** **Audience:** **+63%**

Spike Lee's take on Chicago gang violence

INTERVIEW

Chi-Raq inspired by ancient Greek play

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada



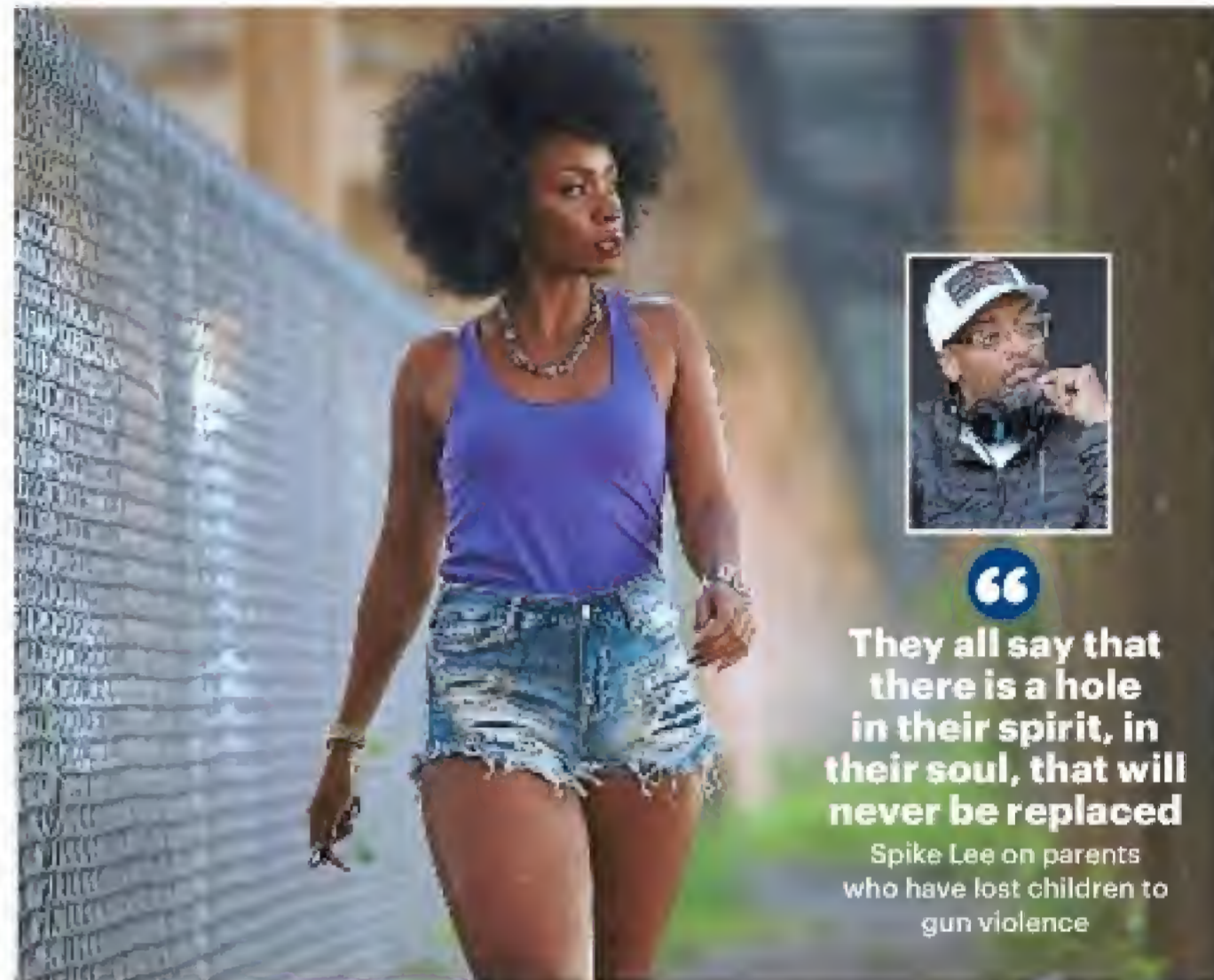
"The human spirit is a great thing," says director Spike Lee on what he learned while doing research for his new film. The director spent six months in South Side Chicago, "talking to people, meeting people, getting the lay of the land," before shooting a single frame of his anti-gang-violence movie *Chi-Raq*.

"It was very important, not just meeting people, but people becoming comfortable with me. People opening up to me."

The movie draws its story about a neighbourhood woman who convinces the wives and girlfriends of gang members to withhold sex from their men until the guys agree to put down their weapons from a Greek play first performed in 411 BC, but details the very modern problem of gun violence.

"At the end of the movie in that scene where everybody is dressed in white," says Lee, "those women are not actresses. Those women are members of a group called Pain Over Purpose. They are mothers whose children, whose sons and daughters, have been shot down in the streets of Chicago. Those pictures they are holding up are pictures of their loved ones."

"The pain of a parent who has lost a child in any circumstance is something that no parent should



“

They all say that there is a hole in their spirit, in their soul, that will never be replaced

Spike Lee on parents who have lost children to gun violence

Lysistrata (Teyonah Parris) is the woman who leads the move to withhold sex from men in Chicago's South Side until the gun violence stops in Spike Lee's new joint Chi-Raq. CONTRIBUTED

have to go through.

"They all say that there is a hole in their spirit, in their soul, that will never be replaced."

"Many of those mothers have tried to commit suicide and had various other problems since then but they are holding strong."

The cycle of violence portrayed in the film and acted out for real on the streets — during *Chi-Raq*'s 38-day filming schedule 331 people were wounded and shot, 65 people were murdered in Chicago — was personal for one of the movie's stars.

"Do you know Jennifer Hud-

son's history?" asks Lee. "It is known knowledge that Jennifer's mother, brother and nephew were murdered in Chicago. I think that's extra gravitas that you have with Jennifer Hudson in this film. This is not an act for her. She got hit directly by gun violence on the South Side of Chicago."

"I didn't want her to think that I was exploiting her. I knew I wanted her for the part but there was some length of time before I got the courage to approach her."

"Also, when we did meet I was babbling. She said, 'Spike, I know why you want me to do

this film, so just stop. I'll do it.' I was trying to be sensitive and I turned out to just beat around the bush. I said, 'I'll just shut up and say thank you.'"

Lee is fearless in his handling of the material, taking chances narratively — the entire film is presented in verse — and visually, to tell the timely and hot-button story of a "self-inflicted genocide."

Finding the mix of heartfelt storytelling and satire, says Lee, was crucial to the success of the film.

"It is not an easy thing to do," he says.

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Divine line between preachy and box office

FAITH-BASED FILMS

Miracles From Heaven tones down religion, ups star power

For some filmgoers, hearing a movie described as "faith-based" makes it a must-see. But just as many others find the term a turn-off.

To reach audiences beyond the Christian church-goers that generally propel the genre, some producers of faith-based films are ramping up the star power and tamping down the evangelical messages.

The latest example is *Miracles From Heaven*, starring Jennifer Garner and Queen Latifah, which tells the true story of a nine-year-old Texas girl who inexplicably recovers from an incurable condition after surviving a 30-foot fall.

Among the film's producers are pastors T.D. Jakes and DeVon Franklin — the team behind 2014's \$100 million hit *Heaven is for Real* — who say they aim to make movies for all audiences, not just religious ones.

"I'm proud of growing up a little good churchgoing United Methodist girl and I'm so, so proud of the film."

Jennifer Garner says of *Miracles From Heaven*

"I think sometimes when people hear 'faith-based,' to them that is code for preachy, that is code for more medicine, and it's also sometimes code for lower quality, lower budgeted," Franklin said in a recent interview.

"It's the way people think when you use labels that is the barrier," Jakes said. "It's not necessarily the film, but the image that comes up in people's minds ... It suggests a discrimination that was not intended. We didn't do this film just for people of faith. We did this film for everybody."

Other entertainment aimed at Christian audiences, including new films *The Young Messiah* and *God's Not Dead 2*, and the live TV special *The Passion* (airing Sunday), take a more

religious approach.

Miracles From Heaven is based on Christy Beam's 2015 memoir, which describes her family's struggles and her own crisis of faith when daughter Anna is diagnosed with an incurable digestive disorder, then has a potentially deadly fall. But following the mishap, Anna has no serious injuries and ultimately shows no signs of the disorder. She later tells her mom she went to heaven and talked to Jesus during the ordeal.

The film is being released Wednesday by Sony's Affirm Films, the studio's specialty faith division established in 2007.

Affirm also released *Heaven is for Real*, starring Greg Kinnear, which is similarly based on a parent's account of a child's divine experience. The film had a reported \$12 million budget and made more than \$100 million at the box office.

Paramount's *Captive*, released last fall, was a modest faith-based success. Also a true story, it stars David Oyelowo as Brian Nichols, an escaped murderer who takes a single mother (Kate Mara) hostage, then lets her go after she reads a Christian book to him. De-

spite mixed reviews, it more than doubled its small budget at the box office.

Marketing a film as faith-based means nothing if the content doesn't speak to religious audiences, said Maria Elena de Las Carreras, a professor of international cinema at the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television.

"It's a label, but it's not magical. It doesn't guarantee box-office turnout," she said, citing Paramount's 2014 big-budget Biblical flop, *Noah*.

"Audiences flock to well-made films that deal with stories of optimism and renewal, even if there is suffering and there is loss," she said. "That was true in classic Hollywood cinema and it's true today."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Jennifer Garner, left, Queen Latifah and Kylie Rogers in *Miracles from Heaven*. HANDOUT

BIG ON FAITH

Biblical blockbusters

Hollywood has a long history of Biblical blockbusters, from Cecil B. DeMille's *The Ten Commandments* to Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* to the currently playing *Risen*, also released by Affirm and starring Joseph Feinnes. But such big names haven't traditionally been drawn to the quieter God-related fare.

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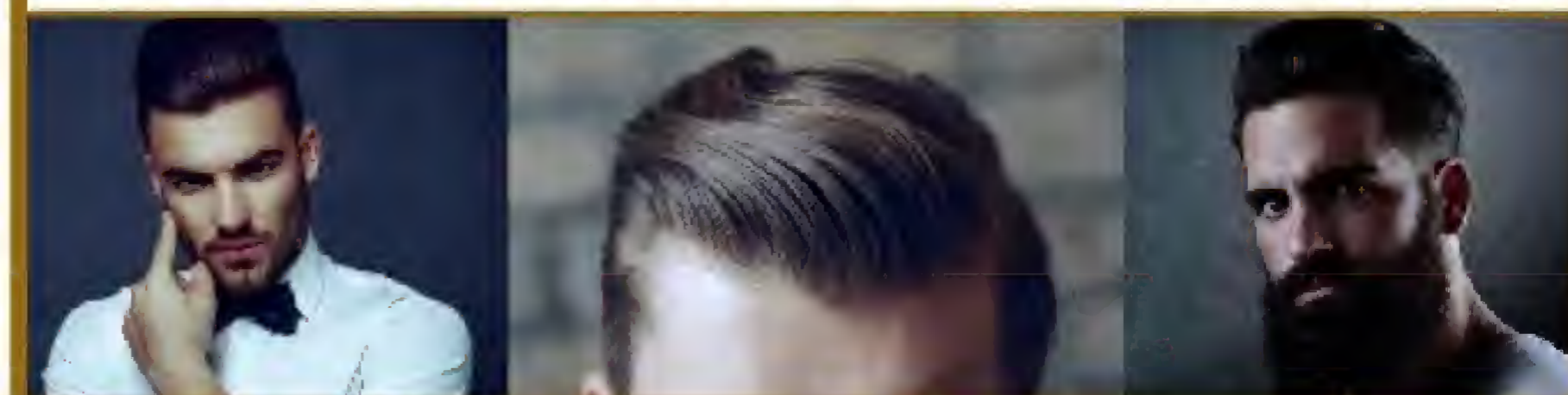


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THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN



The first time I ever had mozzarella in carrozza — a cheese and anchovy delight sandwiched between golden-crust-ed slices of fried bread — was at work. Over 10 years, I was a dish washer, coffee maker, server and eventually a floor manager at the original Terroni in Toronto — original because the southern Italian restaurant is now a mini-empire that includes not only a bakery and wine-importing arm but also two outposts in Los Angeles.

And the first time I ever saw mozzarella in carrozza outside of work was on screen in Neorealist Italian director Vit-

What the two actors express in brief glances is extraordinary, especially considering that De Sica cast non-professionals

toria De Sica's *Bicycle Thieves*, one of the first films Simon and I ever watched together. The 1948 post-World War II film, which comes out on a new Criterion Blu-Ray special edition on March 29, is about a working class man, Antonio Ricci, who gets a job hanging posters on the caveat that he owns a bicycle. Ricci's wife pawns their bed linen in order to get Antonio's bike out of hock. Just as life looks sunnier for the young family, the bike is stolen. The rest of the film chronicles Antonio and his young son Bruno's quest for it in the gritty streets of Rome.

There's a single respite: seeing that Bruno is exhausted and disillusioned, Antonio offers to take him for a pizza with what little money he has left. As soon as they enter a restaurant, they (and the audience) know that everyone else is better-appointed than they are. It's not the type of place

THE MOVIE:
Bicycle Thieves



that serves pizza. So they order mozzarella in carrozza and a carafe of wine. Sweet Bruno, who barely knows how to use a knife and fork, eats his sandwich and drinks his wine with gusto. For a heart-breaking moment, they've not a trouble in the world.

What the two actors, Lamberto Maggiorani and Enzo Staiola, express in brief glances — from desperation to exultation — is extraordinary, espe-

THE MEAL:
Mozzarella in carrozza



cially considering that De Sica cast non-professionals. (Maggiorani was a factory worker and Staiola was a neighbourhood boy who De Sica spotted from his car.)

Bicycle Thieves is, of course, political: it examines the social problems of postwar Italian reconstruction. But it's themes — including how our lives can feel both predetermined and full of chance — are universal. In 1999 Roger Ebert gave the

film four stars on account of this: "it is a simple, powerful film about a man who needs a job," he wrote. "[It] had such an impact on its first release that when the British film magazine *Sight & Sound* held its first international poll of film makers and critics in 1952, it was voted the greatest film of all time."

After we recently re-watched it, we agreed the film was more impactful the second time around, particularly the ending when out of desperation Antonio steals a bike and is mobbed by an angry crowd while Bruno, in tears, watches on. The last shot, a tip of the hat to fellow director Charlie Chaplin, shows Antonio and Bruno dissolving into a crowd. "It's a perfect film," Simon said as we wiped our eyes. There weren't any other words. By chance, we recently walked into Terroni, the place where I passed from my twenties into my thirties and became something approximating an adult, and where, by chance, I first met Simon. And, by chance, there on the special's menu, was mozzarella in carrozza. Our eyes lit up.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's *The Social*.

FILM BRIEF

China-Tinseltown venture unveils a dozen new movies

A joint Hollywood and Chinese production house announced this week a slew of upcoming films, including an action-horror flick about a giant shark, as moviemakers increasingly look to tap into China's vast market.

The announcement in Hong Kong was made by Flagship Entertainment, a tie-up between Warner Brothers, China Media Capital and Hong Kong television broadcaster TVB and comes with Hollywood awash with constantly growing Chinese funding.

Flagship unveiled 12 new films. They include *Meg*, about the discovery of a gigantic ancestor of the great white shark, and *Beautiful Coma*, a romance co-produced by Hong Kong director Peter Chan and U.S. director Brett Ratner, who directed the *Rush Hour* franchise.

Other productions include a remake of *Miss Congeniality* and another comedy *Mission Milano* which stars popular Hong Kong actor Andy Lau. **arp**

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PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Trump candidacy rich inspiration for comedy writers

Donald Trump's presidential campaign is far from ordinary, and late-night television humorists are pushing boundaries in order to keep up.

The most memorable Trump-inspired comedy of the past few months has been more intricate than monologue jokes, reflecting a tough competition for laughs and knowledge that the best material can have a long life online.

John Oliver's epic, 20-minute Trump takedown, with research that revealed the family's name was once "Drumpf," has logged more than 2 million YouTube views. He methodically debunks the beliefs of Trump fans, even as he marvels at the candidate's brazenness. "There's a part of me that even likes this guy," the HBO host said. "It's a part of me I hate, but it's a part of me."

ABC's Jimmy Kimmel reunited Matthew Broderick and Nathan Lane as their old characters from *The Producers*, whose chosen scam is the Trump campaign instead of a musical about Hitler. They soon recognize the story "starts out funny and then gets really, really depressing."

While Darrell Hammond effectively impersonates Trump on *Saturday Night Live*, none of the show's political skits have matched the impact of the "racists for Trump" commercial parody. Trevor Noah's best moment since replacing Jon Stewart on *The Daily Show* came when he compared Trump's words to those of African dictators.

"There are a lot of ways where a comedian can tell easy jokes about Trump and they keep repeating themselves," said Robert Thompson, director of Syracuse University's

Bleier Center for Television and Popular Culture. "But the really good stuff is very sophisticated, very probing political satire."

Comics were nearly shaking with excitement when Trump announced his candidacy, anticipating a great diversion to a serious campaign. Yet as the outrageous statements piled up and Trump maintained a high standing in the polls, it wasn't so funny anymore — a point Thompson noted was effectively made in a routine by Comedy Central's Larry Wilmore.

"Trump is sort of a double-edged sword," said Matt O'Brien, head writer for Conan O'Brien's TBS show. "On the one hand, he gives you so much to make fun of every day. The real problem is there are now

15 hosts going after the same piece of meat.

It's hard to be original with him, because everyone is coming after him from all angles."

That's made people in late-night take detailed looks at Trump and his supporters. You may still hear jokes about Trump's orange tint or gravity-defying hairstyle, but they already feel old and tired.

The Internet adds another layer of competition. Some jokes that pop online, like the memes that compared Chris Christie to a hostage for how he looked standing behind Trump at a news conference, work much better than they would on television, said Jo Miller, executive producer of Samantha Bee's *Full Frontal* on TBS.

Bee's show this week staged a party for Trump supporters, supplying drinks, massages and fact-checkers who quickly became overworked by the conversation. "How do you fact-check bluster?" Bee asked.

Even with Trump as a font of comedy, late-night shows haven't neglected other candidates. Bee has thoroughly lampooned Ted Cruz, and Larry David's spot-on Bernie Sanders impersonation is a regular on *Saturday Night Live*.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Donald and Melania Trump as portrayed by Taran Killam and Cecily Strong on *Saturday Night Live*. YOUTUBE/SCREENGRAB

CONFLICT
Comics claim both excitement and depression at Trump's polarizing presidential campaign.

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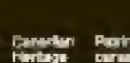
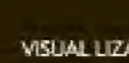
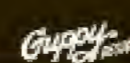
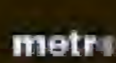
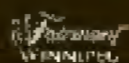
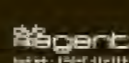
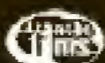
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How do you fact-check bluster?
Samantha Bee



DEATH OF A DRAMA

Looking for clues as to why Motive cancelled

We know the victim: Vancouver-based police drama *Motive*, which returns Tuesday at 10 p.m. ET on CTV, for a fourth and final season.

The network is pulling the trigger after this. What we don't have is the motive for killing *Motive*. Here are the usual suspects:

Poor ratings?

Nope. *Motive*, has a strong and loyal audience. Season 3 was watched by an average 1.2 million viewers a week. It was among the most-watched Canadian dramas last season.

The cast hates each other?

No evidence of that during a Vancouver set visit last December. "We love working together so much," says Kristin Lehman (Det. Angie Flynn). The dynamic between the two leads: Det. Flynn (Lehman) and Det. Oscar Vega (Louis Ferreira) is less of the usual romantic tension, more friendship. But cop shows thrive on conflict

and networks encourage it. Ferreira gets the Vega-Flynn relationship "may not be as dynamic as some other shows," but he's still damn proud of it.

Rejected by America?

Maybe. When ABC dropped *Motive* after its second summer run, the clock was ticking to find a new broadcast partner. Executive producer Dennis Heaton (Call Me Fitz) said he always understood he was producing the show for CTV and NBC.

HAIRCUT CURSE

The show Felicity died after Keri Russell cut her hair. *Motive* star Kristen Lehman cut her hair, too. Connection?

It's too Canadian

Motive hid some of its Vancouver-ness, "fictionalizing" the police world a little, admits Heaton. That seemed to change the last two seasons.

"There's a very Vancouver sensibility to it," he says, telling his writing staff at one point, "Enough developers! Enough with the construction guys!"

The "Anywhere, USA" approach was seen in the past as a way to grow a show internationally. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toast pops from Shonda Rhimes' creative brain



Jerrika Hinton will star in Shonda Rhimes' new pilot, *Toast*. GETTY

FALL SEASON

Pilot features cast of Grey's Anatomy in fresh new roles

The creator of a slew of series for ABC has picked a star surgeon from *Grey's Anatomy* for the lead role in her new pilot, *Toast*, developed for the 2016/2017 season, and vying for a spot on ABC's fall schedule.

Known to fans of the small-screen series as Stephanie Edwards, a surgical resident in *Grey's Anatomy*, Jerrika Hinton will star in Shonda Rhimes' newest creation.

Toast is set at the rehearsal dinner of Max and Page, the night before their wedding. Over the course of the evening, their family and friends share anecdotes about the pair as they toast the couple. This leads to a series of flashbacks showing the highs and lows the couple encountered on the road to marriage.

Jerrika Hinton plays Page, a no-nonsense woman from a well-to-do Texas family. Her future husband, Max, played by Jono Kenyon, is quite the opposite. Having dropped out of college and with his father in prison, this charismatic but clumsy character is worried about what his in-laws really think.

The pilot will see Jerrika Hinton star alongside fellow *Grey's Anatomy* cast member, Tessa Ferrer, who played intern Leah Murphy in Seasons 9 and 10, before being fired by Dr. Webber. She'll be playing Jules in the new pilot, Max's tomboyish best friend.

Toast is the second pilot developed by Shonda Rhimes for the autumn 2016 season on US TV, together with *Still Star-Crossed*, inspired by Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. She already has three shows on American TV, with *Grey's Anatomy*, *Scandal* and *How to Get Away With Murder*. A fourth series, *The Catch*, is set to air March 24.

AFP



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Marvel's Elektra a 'sociopath': French-Cambodian actress

NETFLIX

Yung plays Daredevil's love interest in second season

Elektra, the ninja warrior and love interest of the Marvel superhero Daredevil has not fared well in the minds of some fans.

The last time we saw her she was played by Jennifer Garner in the 2005 movie of the same name. Garner, wife of former Daredevil Ben Affleck, played Elektra less as damaged psychopath and more like a suburban soccer mom with a bag full of ninja flying stars.

That image will likely be erased with the second season of Netflix's Daredevil which lands Friday.

French-Cambodian actress Elodie Yung has been cast as Elektra Natchios, and she seems determined to hew to Frank Miller's much more intense vision of the character.

"She's basically a sociopath," says Yung in an interview. "That's basically how I played her. She can't bond properly with anyone. For her it's a game. She is a complex character who suffered when she was young and now tries to fight her demons. But she copes in the sense that if she has a goal to achieve, nothing will stop her."

Yung seems born for the role of Elektra. For one thing, she is a black belt in karate. She's also got smarts, having a masters in law from the University of Paris. This is also not her first time at the ninja superhero game, having played the very



Elodie Yung stars as Elektra in Season 2 of Netflix's Daredevil. CONTRIBUTED

Elektra-like Jinx in G.I. Joe: Retaliation.

"I think yes, she has some darkness in her definitely. I think there's a journey to her. She will question all that. She will try to find the truth about herself," says Yung. "She is mysteriously cold, and she's a very mysterious character when she comes back into Matt (Daredevil) and his world. But still, there is something deep going on between the two."

“It's one of the most complex characters I've had to play.”

Elodie Yung

The complexity of the character seems to suit the new, darker Netflix Marvel universe, of which the first season of

Daredevil proved to be a hit. The follow up series Jessica Jones — the best superhero show of 2015 — followed on that premise, with several more series still in production culminating in the team-up series The Defenders.

Fans of Season 1 will find Season 2 mostly satisfying, but not as intriguing as the first. This time around Daredevil has some superhero buddy help to keep things interesting. Crit-

ics were given the first seven episodes of the season.

In Season 2 Matt Murdoch is joined by not just Elektra, but Frank Castle, also known as The Punisher played by The Walking Dead's Jon Bernthal. Deborah Ann Woll, Elden Henson and Rosario Dawson also return.

What made Season 1 riveting was the origins story of how a blind lawyer turns into the man without fear. The charac-

ter arc of Murdoch coincides with the rise of the Kingpin (Vincent D'Onofrio) as one of the best villains on television.

Without a charismatic villain, the writers don't get luxury of that kind of back story to play with in the new season. Much of the first half of the second season is Daredevil jousting with his new superhero buddies, which is good fun — but not the psychodrama of Season 1.

Bernthal's Punisher feels flat — although the character is difficult to play since his mood ranges from rage to over the top rage and it's hard to find emotional common ground.

Yung's Elektra as love interest and superhero is more rounded and intriguing. She adds an icy, submersive element that contrasts with Matt Murdoch's boy scout leanings.

Yung says she grappled to coming to terms with the character when she was first cast.

"It was my big problem at the beginning when I started to dig into what is a sociopath. I ... needed to get empathy, not to judge her. She lies, she kills, I didn't want to judge that," says Yung. "I needed to understand that aspect of her to portray her. It's one of the most complex characters I've had to play."

So far Yung says she has not viewed the 2005 Elektra film because she didn't want to be influenced by the role. She did read the comics though.

"I got really inspired by them. It's a wonderful piece of art. It gave you such a strong image of Elektra as a complex character who suffered when she was young and tries to fight her demons."

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How the stars brought golf to Palm Springs



With more than a 110 courses and a 1950s ring-a-ding vibe, Palm Springs is one of the best places to golf in North America. COURTESY OF VISITGREATERPALMSPRINGS.COM

CALIFORNIA

Desert oasis a top place to tee-off

Brian Kendall
For Metro Canada



Golf and Palm Springs go together like Bob Hope and Bing Crosby.

Hope, Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and other celebrity golfers helped popularize the game in a desert oasis famous as Hollywood's Haven.

Just 193 kilometres east of downtown Los Angeles, Palm Springs provided a welcome es-

cape from the city's smog and congestion. The stars came to bask in the abundant sunshine and delight in the starkly dramatic scenery of the Coachella Valley.

With more than 110 courses, golf remains a major draw throughout a popular sunbird destination that works hard to retain its ring-a-ding 1950s vibe. Between tee-offs, budget time for a tour of the sleekly elegant mid-century modern hotels and civic buildings, shopping on posh North Palm Canyon Drive, and a happy hour cocktail at Melvyn's, one of Sinatra's old haunts.

Golf came to the Coachella Valley in 1925 with the opening of O'Donnell Golf Club, a

private course frequented by Clark Gable and other matinee idols.

Today, courses by acclaimed golf architects are scattered throughout Greater Palm Springs, an area encompassing old Palm Springs and eight seamlessly connected sister communities, most notably La Quinta, Palm Desert and Indian Wells.

Former host of the Bob Hope Classic, SilverRock Resort's Arnold Palmer Classic Course in La Quinta is spectacularly routed along the base of the Santa Rosa Mountains. La Quinta is also home to PGA West, one of North America's premier golf properties. Most famous of the resort's six layouts is

the Stadium Course, a Pete Dye-designed monster rated one of the game's best — and toughest — courses.

A highlight in Palm Desert is Shadow Ridge Golf Club, an expertly sculpted Australia Sandbelt-inspired course by Nick Faldo. Equally strong are the two Hurdzan-Fry designs at Desert Willow Golf Resort.

And the must-play in Indian Wells is the Players Course at Indian Wells Golf Resort. This unyielding John Fought design stretches nearly 7,400 yards from the tips.

Other top courses include Eagle Falls Golf Course, Escena Golf Club, the Pete Dye and Gary Player layouts at Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort and Spa, and Shadow Mountain Golf Club, one

of the few courses designed by the legendary Gene Sarazen.

With street names like Jack Benny Road, Gene Autry Trail and Ginger Rogers Road, even the drive to your next tee time or sightseeing excursion becomes more adventure than chore in this celebrity obsessed burg.

Sunnylands, at the intersec-

tion of Frank Sinatra and Bob Hope Drives in Rancho Mirage, is another notable haunt of Hollywood luminaries past and present.

Built in the 1960s for publisher, diplomat and philanthropist Walter Annenberg, the pink-roofed Desert Modernism-style mansion (complete with a nine-hole golf course) is now open to the public.

Presidents from Eisenhower to Obama have visited. When greeting Queen Elizabeth in 1983, Annenberg announced she would "see how ordinary Americans live."

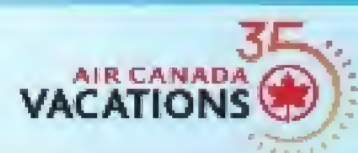
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Tap into popular sugaring-off season

QUEBEC

Syrup-soaked meals, maple forest walks signal spring

It's a sweet Quebec tradition that is a sign of spring being right around the corner.

Sugaring-off season is big business in the province, which accounts for nearly three-quarters of the maple syrup produced uniquely in North America.

As production ratchets up, business gets booming at a few hundred restaurant-style "cabanes a sucre" sprinkled around the province.

Louis-Robert Handfield, owner of the Auberge Handfield inn and an adjoining maple farm in Saint-Marc-sur-Richelieu, says locals embrace the season as a way of shaking off a winter's worth of cabin fever.

"I strongly believe people go to the sugar shack anticipating the coming of the spring," Handfield said.

And of course the tradition-

+ IF YOU GO

How to find them

There are plenty of sugar shack options within a short drive of major cities like Montreal or Quebec City. A partial list is available from Quebec's Tourism Department.

Special requests

If you're interested in vegetarian/vegan options, best to call ahead and reserve. Reservations are also needed for some of the smaller sugar shacks, but given the popularity, be prepared to wait in line.

al, heavy meal, all drowned in the sweet, sticky maple syrup.

Menus vary slightly among restaurants, but typically include pea soup with ham, maple-smoked ham and sausages, crisp pork rinds, baked beans, eggs and fresh bread. It's topped off with desserts like deep-fried dough, sugar pie, doughnuts and crepes.

In recent years, a handful of establishments, including Handfield's, have started offering vegan, vegetarian and non-pork options.

"We had a lot of families who wouldn't come because one of the family members had a specific dietary requirement — be it vegetarian, vegan

or without pork or lactose-free or gluten-free," he said.

Handfield says this will be third years he's offered items like tofu, vegetable polenta, green pea soup with mint, and baked trout in a soya-and-maple lacquer.

In addition, there's a chart at the table letting patrons know that regular shack staples such as boiled potatoes, coleslaw, marinated beets and pickles are available.

Tinkering with sugar shack menus may have caused a stir a decade ago, but there's no controversy here, Handfield assures.

The regular meal still accounts for 85 per cent of busi-

ness.

"We offer both types of meals," Handfield said. "We make sure we don't touch the integrity of the traditions."

Some Quebecers see a trip to a sugar shack as part of their ancestral history.

"We come here every year and the meal is something we look forward to," Michel Menard said as he waited in line with his family at La Goudrelle, a sugar shack near Mont-Saint-Gregoire, south of Montreal.

"It's nice to get out to the country for some fresh air and also, it's as kid-friendly as it comes."

Many shacks offer a range of activities: traditional music, children's face painting, pony rides, tractor rides and petting zoos.

Aside from the meal, the other musts include walking through the maple forest to work off the meal.

And of course the maple taffy — known as "tire" in French, made from ladling boiling syrup on fresh snow and twirling it on to a Popsicle stick.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Guests at Domaine Handfield sugar shack take a tractor ride through the forest, in Saint Marc-sur Richelieu, Que.

RYAN REMIOWZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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IN BRIEF

Gee-Gees fall to Huskies

Dalyce Emmerson had 25 points to lead the second-ranked Saskatchewan Huskies past No. 7 Ottawa Gee-Gees 73-62 on Thursday at the Canadian university women's basketball tournament.

Kellie Ring led Ottawa with 19 points and eight rebounds.

In other action, the Saint Mary's Huskies edged the Alberta Pandas 53-52. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Raptors outpace Indiana

DeMar DeRozan and Kyle Lowry each scored 28 points to lead the Toronto Raptors over the Indiana Pacers 101-94 in overtime Thursday night.

DeRozan had a chance to win the game for Toronto at the end of regulation but missed a fade-away jumper on the wing as time expired. He's scored at least 25 points in five of Toronto's last six games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tough draw for U-20s

Canada has been given a stiff test in Group B with Nigeria, Japan and Spain for the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup in Papua New Guinea in November.

Nigeria, the seeded team in the pool, was runner-up to Germany in 2014 and fourth in 2012.

The Canadian women made the U-20 World Cup quarter-finals as host in 2014, losing to Germany.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



American-born commissioner Gary Bettman presents 2015 Stanley Cup to Canadian Jonathan Toews. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

All-American worry

STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS

Bettman hopes Canadian fans keep watching post-season

With the rare prospect of an all-American NHL post-season looming large, Gary Bettman hopes Canadians still tune in to watch the battle for the Stanley Cup.

The NHL commissioner acknowledged in an interview there is a sense of uncertainty regarding TV ratings in Canada,

with no Canadian teams likely to qualify for the playoffs for the first time since 1970.

Still, he was hopeful that fans north of the border would tune in regardless.

Bettman said local teams "tend to draw better" in terms of ratings.

"But as long as the hockey is entertaining and exciting and competitive we're hoping and expecting that fans will tune in and watch great hockey," he added.

The four lowest-placed teams in the NHL are Canadian, as are six of the bottom 10. The Toronto Maple Leafs and Ed-

monton Oilers currently have the fewest points in the league, just behind the Calgary Flames and Winnipeg Jets.

Last season five clubs from Canada — Calgary, Montreal, Ottawa, Winnipeg and Vancouver — qualified for the post-season. One year earlier it was only one — Montreal, also the last Canadian team to capture

the Stanley Cup in 1993.

Bettman said the wealth of Canadian talent should be enough to attract interest, as should the appeal of exciting, competitive hockey.

From Jonathan Toews to Drew Doughty to Jamie Benn to Patrice Bergeron and Steven Stamkos, Canadian players will indeed be well represented come playoff time.

"Fifty per cent of the players in this game are from Canada so for people to suggest that there isn't still a Canadian-centric focus I think is a little misleading," Bettman said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Fifty per cent of the players ... are from Canada.

Gary Bettman

NHL

Thornton may play till age 40

Joe Thornton knows he would look a lot younger if he shaved his bushy, grey-streaked beard.

By far the oldest player among the NHL's leading scorers, the 36-year-old San Jose Sharks centre is getting better with age at a time when the league is trending younger. With nearly a point per game this season, he's on pace to become just the 13th player 35 and older to amass 80 points in a season since 1990.

"He's playing as well as I've ever seen him play, he really is," said Sharks general manager Doug Wilson.

"To me, he is a young 36-year-old and a lot of it is attitude and spirit. This guy is a special, special guy."

Exuberant in his passion for the game, Thornton sees no end in sight to his Hall-of-Fame career. Could he play as long as the now-44-year-old Jaromir Jagr?

"Ohhh man, what a question," said a relaxed, yet energetic Thornton during a phone interview from San Jose. "It would be great if I could, but that's still eight years away."

Playing until the age 40 seems more likely, said Thornton, who has one year remaining on his contract with the Sharks.

"I feel good. My body feels good. My mind feels good. I love going to the rink every day. I love the fellowship with the guys, the competition," Thornton said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Chad Laprise has fought 11 straight fights on home soil. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ANDREW VAUGHAN

Laprise: I'll make it big Down Under

MMA

'The Disciple' spreads wings to take on UFC Brisbane bout

After 11 straight fights in Canada, lightweight Chad (The Disciple) Laprise was ready to see the world.

He gets his wish Saturday night when he takes on England's Ross (The Real Deal) Pearson on a televised UFC card in Brisbane.

"I actually asked the UFC to fight on this card. Fighting in Australia has always been a dream, of mine," said Laprise. "I've always wanted to go there."

Australia is already part of his fight resumé. The 29-year-old from Chatham, Ont., who trains in Montreal, won "The Ultimate Fighter Nations: Canada vs. Australia" reality TV show as a welterweight.

Rival fighters became friends and Laprise has been train-

ing at Brendan (The Badger) O'Reilly's gym in Brisbane. O'Reilly, a TUF Nations alumnus, fights American Alan Jouban on Saturday's card (actually 9 a.m. Sunday Australian time).

Former heavyweight champion Frank Mir (18-10-0) takes on hard-hitting Kiwi Mark Hunt (11-10-1) in the main event at the Brisbane Entertainment Centre. Hunt is ranked ninth among heavyweight contenders while Mir is No. 10.

Laprise (11-1-0) was originally slated to fight Brazil's Alan Patrick. But eight days before the bout he was shifted to face Pearson (20-10-1 with one no contest) after Pearson's original opponent, Abel Trujillo, dropped off the card.

Former minor-league enfor-

cer Steve (The Boss) Bosse of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que., fights New Zealand's James Te Huna on the main card. Bosse (10-1-0) was knocked out in 29 seconds in his UFC debut last June by Thiago Santos.

The former Ligue Nord-Américaine de Hockey tough guy was originally slated to make his UFC debut against fellow Canadian Ryan Jimmo in April 2014. But Bosse had to pull out of the fight with a shoulder injury and subsequently retired.

Laprise, who won his first three UFC fights, is coming off a first-round TKO loss to Francisco Trinaldo last August in Saskatoon. Essentially he got caught with a punch. Ironically he says he obsessed about Trinaldo's "monster left hand".

"He's not a better fighter than me ... I got cracked with one big punch," he said.

This time, he says he's not going to worry about what his opponent is going to do.

"I'm going to go out there and do my thing," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

“

Fighting in Australia has always been a dream of mine

Chad Laprise

BOXING

Double delight at Rio tickets

Canadian boxers Mandy Bujold and Ariane Fortin have qualified for this summer's Rio Olympics.

Both fighters won their semifinal bouts at the American qualifying tournament Thursday to book their tickets to Brazil.

Bujold, from Kitchener, Ont., defeated Grazieli Jesus de Sousa of Brazil 3-0 in the 51-kilogram division. A two-time Pan Am Games gold medallist, Bujold failed to qualify for the 2012

London Games where women's boxing made its Olympic debut.

She couldn't contain her excitement on social media Thursday.

"I'M GOING TO RIO!!!!!!!" she tweeted. "Words can't describe the way I'm feeling right now! All I can say is Hard Work really does pay off!!! #TeamBujold."

At 75 kilograms, Fortin, a native of St. Nicholas, Que., edged Brazil's Andreia de Oliveira Bandeira 2-1.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

EUROPA LEAGUE

Liverpool gives United boot

A stunning solo goal by Philippe Coutinho helped Liverpool eliminate great rival Manchester United from the Europa League, while titleholder Sevilla and tournament favourite Borussia Dortmund also reached the quarterfinals with ease on Thursday.

Liverpool drew 1-1 with United at Old Trafford to seal a 3-1 aggregate victory, with Coutinho scoring the equalizer — and all-important away goal — on the stroke of halftime by dribbling into the box and applying an extravagant chip for his finish.

Sevilla, seeking a third straight Europa League title,



Scorer Philippe Coutinho.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

beat Basel 3-0 to advance by the same score on aggregate, and the prolific Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scored Dortmund's goals in a 2-1 win at Tottenham

for 5-1 overall.

Sparta Prague eliminated Lazio by winning 3-0 away in the round's big upset. Athletic Bilbao knocked out Valencia on away goals in an all-Spanish match, and other teams to go through were Villarreal, Shakhtar Donetsk and Braga.

The draw for the quarterfinals takes place on Friday.

Man United's only possible route to next season's Champions League now rests solely through a top-four finish in the Premier League, which is currently looking unlikely with the team in sixth place with nine games left.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Jays split Grapefruit pair

Carlos Correa and Preston Tucker homered Thursday in the Houston Astros' 7-5 split-squad win over a Toronto Blue Jays split squad. Toronto starter Brad Penny gave up five runs on four hits and three walks in two innings.

Scott Diamond tossed two perfect innings as the

second half of the Jays split squad blanked the Canadian junior national team 12-0. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Day shines at Bay Hill

Jason Day one-putted his last seven holes Thursday and had a 6-under 66 to take a one-shot lead at the Arnold Palmer Invitational. Adam Scott, coming off

two straight victories, relied on a solid short game to join a large group at 67 that included Henrik Stenson and Marc Leishman.

Rory McIlroy made a pair of double bogeys and opened with a 75. He will try to avoid missing his second straight cut against a full field.

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LEMIEUX DATE

David Lemieux of Montreal will face Glen Tapia in his first bout since losing the IBF middleweight title. The battle between Lemieux (34-3-0) and Tapia (23-2-0) will be on the undercard of a middleweight title fight between Canelo Alvarez and Amir Khan on May 7 in Las Vegas.

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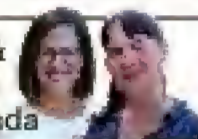


RECIPE Veggie Sloppy Joes



PHOTO: MAYA VISNIVEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada



- 1 tsp maple syrup
- 1/4 tsp cumin
- 1/4 tsp chili powder
- 1/4 tsp paprika
- 1/8 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup shaved cheddar

Directions

1. In a large skillet, heat the oil over medium heat. Add the onions and peppers. Sauté until the vegetables are softened.

2. Add the beans, tomato sauce, vinegar, maple syrup, cumin, chili powder, paprika and salt. Simmer for 15 minutes.

3. Serve on toasted whole grain bun and sprinkle with cheddar cheese.

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You won't miss the meat but will love the flavour upgrade of this classic comfort meal. Don't forget the napkins.

Ready in

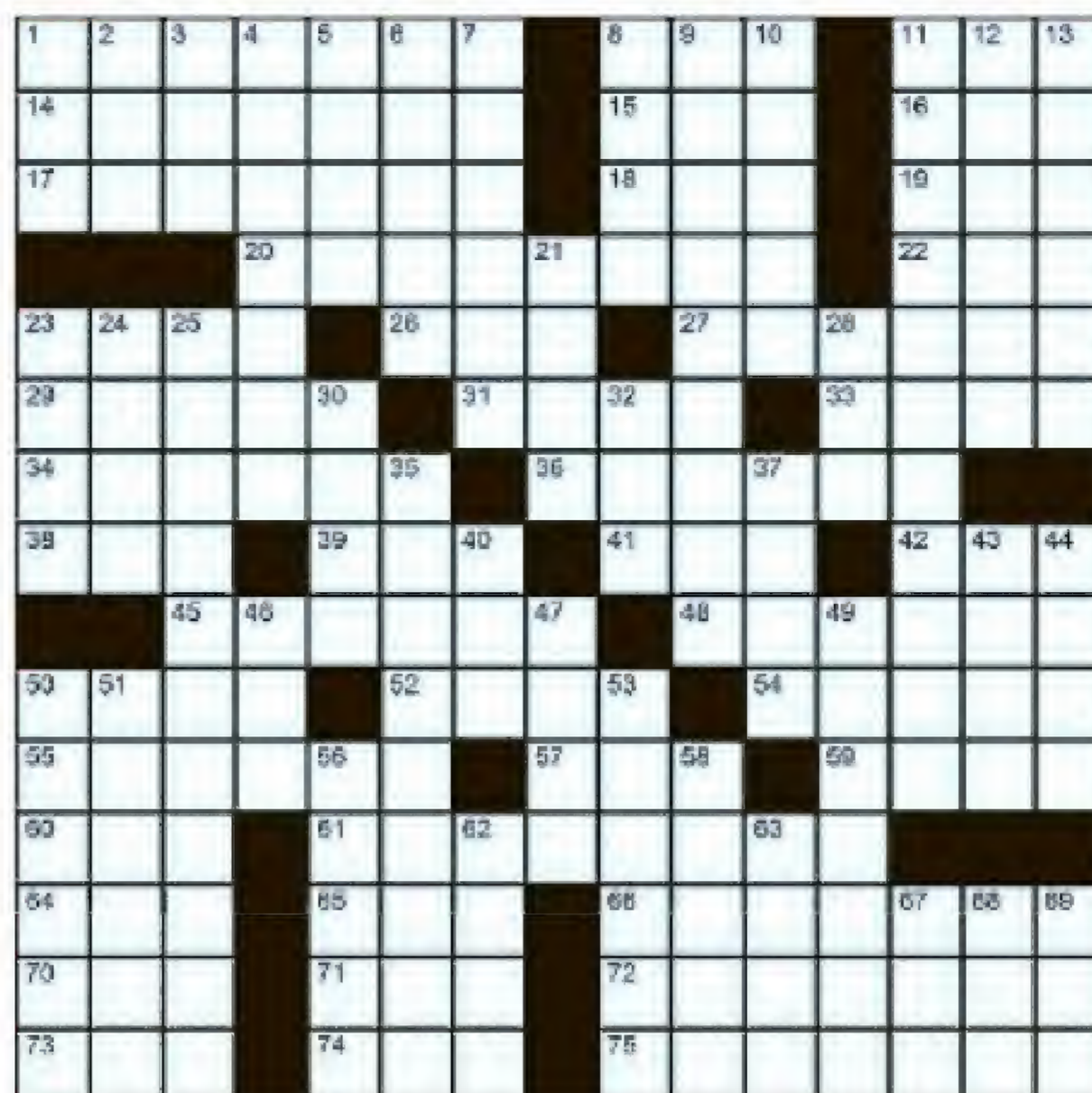
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Makes: 4 Sloppy Joes

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 chopped onion
- 1 chopped red pepper
- 2 (14 oz) cans of black beans, rinsed
- 1 (14 oz) can of chick peas, rinsed
- 1 cup tomato sauce
- 2 Tbsp red wine vinegar

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS

- Unwavering
- Butterfly logo co.
- Dripping on the tree bark
- Tributes
- Stock mkt. debut
- __la-la
- Fashionable
- Women's __ (1970s movement)
- Bard's evening
- Direct opposite as per North, to South
- "Jeff __" (Mid-2000s Canadian comedy series)
- Wee word
- __ Lanka
- Canadian actress Ms. Cuthbert
- McIntosh middles
- Pressure unit
- Some parrots
- New cop
- "Easy there...": 2 wds.
- Tolkien creature
- Alkali
- Business bigwig, briefly
- Howdies
- British actress, __ Bonham Carter
- Weightlifter's pride
- Howard of "Dallas"
- Fair
- Aired again
- Improve
- Lit old MTV show
- Mr. Beatty's
- Do this at the auction
- Canadian canned soup brand
- Give it __ (Try)

- "...and now, with-out further __"
- "__ Flame" by The Bangles
- Snazzy auto
- Hollywood's Mr. Howard
- "The Beachcombers" star Bruno
- __ Francisco

- Lettered air-line, once
- British invasion band

DOWN

- Initials-sharers of Suzanne Somers' Canuck hubby
- On the __ (Pre-

- cisely)
- Ms. Schumer
- Victor __ Investigative Reporter on CTV's "W5"
- Opposin'
- Aeries
- Casual top with jeans
- Simon's co-mem-

- ber in Prozac
- Bug-built bugs capturer: 2 wds.
- The __ Peace Prize
- Howie Mandel played Dr. Wayne Fiscus on what 1982 to 1988 medical drama?: 2 wds.

- "Think" singer Ms. Franklin
- 'Giant' attractions at the Toronto Zoo
- Subatomic particle
- Land unit
- Benefit
- Sam Roberts song that goes "Been looking for peace but they're bringing you war": 2 wds.
- 1965 hit song, when doubled
- Part of a window
- Mythical bird
- Makeup kit item
- Pinot __ (Wine variety)
- Antacid brand
- Apple tablet
- Taxpayers' IDs in The States
- Mr. Wallach
- Sparkling wine city of Italy
- Big name in multivitamins
- BBQ sizzlers, Shish __ [var. sp.]
- 2001 Kate Winslet WWII-set movie
- Canadian songstress Lindi
- __-topper (Hit song)
- Approach nighttime
- __ fide
- Italian saint, Philip __
- Edward Snowden headlines.org
- Communication syst.
- '__ for Lethbridge

*IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
The Sun moves into your birth sign at the weekend, so don't worry if you are feeling a bit under the weather at the moment because you will soon be back to your best.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
If you feel the need to cut yourself off from those around you over the next few days then do so. It may seem rude but good manners are less important now than getting your head in the right place.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Your recent hard work has not gone unnoticed. People are impressed by your attitude and there could be a promotion coming your way in the near future.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
The Sun crosses the career angle of your chart on Sunday, so it won't be long before you get the chance to move up in the world. But don't be tempted to cut corners.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You may think you need to rip everything up and start again from scratch. But it isn't true and in fact would be a backward step. The good times will start in a matter of days, so be patient.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You have spent far too much in recent weeks and if you carry on there may be nothing left. The good news is you will discover a new source of income very soon.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
By the time the Sun enters your opposite sign of Aries on Sunday you should know for certain if a relationship is going to last or if it is best to go your separate ways.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
The Sun's move into the work area of your chart in just a few days means you may need to take on new chores and responsibilities. But know when to say "no" — and mean it.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Certain events may have upset you but there is no point dwelling on them. In a matter of days they will no longer matter. The Sun's change of signs on the 20th will cheer you up to no end.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The more you have been rushing here, there and everywhere in recent weeks, the more you must slow down and focus on matters closer to home. Give your full attention to partners and loved ones.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The past few weeks have not been easy but you stuck at your task and very soon you will get your reward. The pendulum is about to swing in your favour.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
By all means show sympathy for someone who is finding the going tough at the moment, and do what you can to help them.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

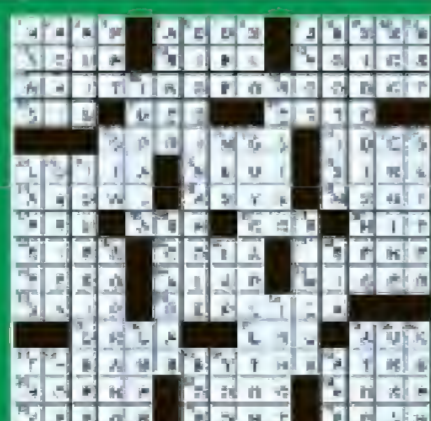


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